

**§482.54(a) Standard: Organization**

**Outpatient services must be appropriately organized and integrated with inpatient services.**

**Interpretive Guidelines §482.54(a)**

The organization of the hospital's outpatient services must be appropriate to the scope and complexity of services offered.

The hospital's outpatient services, at all locations, must be integrated with inpatient services (e.g., medical records, radiology, laboratory, surgical services, anesthesia (including pain management) services, other diagnostic services, etc), as appropriate to the outpatient services offered. The hospital must have written policies in place to assure the integration of outpatient services, including an established method of communication between outpatient service departments to corresponding inpatient services.

The hospital must coordinate the care, treatment and services provided to a patient. In order to provide continuity of care, it should have an established method of communication between inpatient services and outpatient care in order to provide continuity of care to its patients.

**Survey Procedures §482.53(a)**

- Verify that the outpatient services are organized in a manner appropriate to the scope and complexity of services offered.
- Verify that the hospital has an established method of communication and established procedures to assure integration with inpatient services to provide continuity of care.
- Review medical records of outpatients who were later admitted to the hospital in order to determine that pertinent information from the outpatient record has been included in the inpatient record.
- Determine that each outpatient service location is integrated with the appropriate hospital inpatient services in accordance with the needs of the patient care provided at each of those locations.