

§482.51(b)(1) - Prior to surgery or a procedure requiring anesthesia services and except in the case of emergencies:

(i) A medical history and physical examination must be completed and documented no more than 30 days before or 24 hours after admission or registration, and except as provided under paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section.

Interpretive Guidelines §482.43(b)(1)(i)

There must be a complete history and physical examination (H & P), and an update, if applicable, in the medical record of every patient prior to surgery, or a procedure requiring anesthesia services, except in emergencies and, under §482.51(b)(1)(iii), for those specific patients that are not required to have a comprehensive medical history and physical examination, or any update to it, prior to specific outpatient surgical or procedural services as determined by medical staff policy.

The H&P must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of 42 CFR 482.22(c)(5).

- The H&P must be completed and documented no more than 30 days before or 24 hours after admission or registration. In all cases when it is determined that an H&P is required, except for emergencies, the H&P must be completed and documented **before** the surgery or procedure takes place, even if that surgery or procedure occurs less than 24 hours after admission or registration.
- If the H&P was completed within 30 days before admission or registration, then an updated examination must be completed and documented within 24 hours after admission or registration. In all cases when it is determined that an H&P is required, except for emergencies, the update must be completed and documented **before** the surgery or procedure takes place, even if that surgery or procedure occurs less than 24 hours after admission or registration.

Survey Procedures §482.51(b)(1)(i)

Review a sample of open and closed medical records of patients (both inpatient and outpatient) who have had surgery or a procedure requiring anesthesia.

- Determine whether an H&P, if required was conducted and documented in a timely manner.

- Determine whether the H&P, if required, was conducted in accordance with the requirements of 42 CFR 482.22(c)(5).
- Determine whether the records of patients who are required to have an H&P, did not have an H&P in a timely manner or update indicate that the surgery or procedure was conducted on an emergency basis.