

§482.53(d) Standard: Records

The hospital must maintain signed and dated reports of nuclear medicine interpretations, consultations, and procedures.

(1) The hospital must maintain copies of nuclear medicine reports for at least 5 years.

(2) The practitioner approved by the medical staff to interpret diagnostic procedures must sign and date the interpretation of these tests.

Interpretive Guidelines §482.53(d)(1) & (2)

Nuclear medicine patient records, including interpretations, consultations, and procedures are patient medical records and the hospital must comply with the Medical Records CoP (§482.24).

Nuclear medicine patient records, like all patient medical records, must be maintained for at least five years. If State law requires a longer period, the hospital must comply, but surveyors do not assess compliance with State law requirements as part of the Federal survey. Each report of an interpretation of a nuclear medicine diagnostic study must be signed and dated by the practitioner who made the interpretation, as authorized by the medical staff. Deficient nuclear medicine medical records practices related to these two requirements must be cited under this regulation; depending on the specific facts, citation under the Medical Records CoP might also be appropriate.

Survey Procedures §482.53(d)(1) & (2)

- Verify that copies of nuclear medicine reports are maintained for at least 5 years.
- Verify that reports of nuclear medicine interpretations are signed and dated only by the practitioner who interpreted the study's results, as authorized by the medical staff to perform these interpretations

