

(Rev. 37, Issued: 10-17-08; Effective/Implementation Date: 10-17-08)

§482.27(a)(1) - Emergency laboratory services must be available 24 hours a day.

Interpretive Guidelines §482.27(a)(1)

The hospital must provide emergency laboratory services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These onsite emergency services may be provided directly by the hospital or through onsite contracted laboratory services. Emergency lab services include collection, processing, and provision of results to meet a patient's emergency laboratory needs.

In a hospital with multiple hospital campuses, these emergency laboratory services must be available onsite 24/7 at each campus.

The medical staff must determine which laboratory services are to be immediately available to meet the emergency laboratory needs of patients who may be currently at the hospital or those patients who may arrive at the hospital in an emergency condition. The emergency laboratory services (procedures, tests, personnel) available should reflect the scope and

complexity of the hospital's operation and be provided in accordance with Federal and State law, regulations and guidelines and acceptable standards of practice.

At a hospital with off-campus locations the medical staff must determine which, if any, laboratory services must be immediately available to meet the emergency laboratory needs of the patients who are likely to seek care at each off-campus location. The emergency laboratory services available must reflect the scope and complexity of the hospital's operations at the location and be provided in accordance with Federal and State law, regulations and guidelines and acceptable standards of practice. The services must be available during the hours of operation of that location.

Survey Procedures §482.27(a)(1)

Review the written description of the emergency laboratory services. Review records (including accession records, worksheets, and test reports) to verify the 24-hour availability of emergency services and that those services are provided when required.