

Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Clinical Standards & Quality
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 4T20
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8909



IMPORTANT NOTICE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
(Receipt of this Notice is Presumed to be July 14, 2020 Date Notice E-mailed)

July 14, 2020

Attn: Dr. Charla Long
President
The QuiLTSS Institute, Inc. and the Bureau of TennCare
1417 Hanson Drive
Franklin, Tennessee 37067
charla@quiltss.org
Tiffany@quiltss.org
Melissa@quiltss.org

**Re: Approval of “No Cost One-Year Extension”
CMP Request No. 2019-04-TN-0916**

Dear Dr. Charla Long:

On March 13, 2020, a public health emergency (PHE) was declared due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The quarter #1 project report stated that COVID-19 had been a huge obstacle to the start of the CMP project, titled, “Enhancing C.N.A. Competencies for Improved Resident Outcomes Through a Specialized Competency Based Training Program.” Specifically, the report stated that Tennessee certified nursing homes, administrators and direct care staff were focused on resident care, staffing and COVID-19, and visitation restrictions established to protect vulnerable residents, essentially created a temporary work stoppage.

This is to acknowledge receipt of the March 2020, quarterly report from The QuiLTSS Institute, Inc., in which you requested a no cost extension. After careful review, CMS is authorizing approval of a one-year no cost extension. The original project was approved for two years. This extension makes this a three-year project. Given the critical importance in limiting COVID-19 exposure in nursing homes, CMS would recommend that this project begin when the Tennessee State Survey Agency (SSA) has entered Phase III of operations. Please collaborate with the SSA and State and local health departments on the status of COVID-19 in the communities with participating nursing homes, as the pandemic is affecting communities in different ways.

Please submit a new project timeline to CMS and the State Survey Agency, and share a copy of the new project timeline with the Quality Improvement Organization. In accordance with 42 CFR § 488.433(d), civil money penalty funds may not be used for activities that have been disapproved by CMS.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Stephanie Davis, Atlanta LTC Enforcement Branch Manager at (404) 562-7471.

Sincerely,

Stephanie M. Davis for

Linda D. Smith, Director
Atlanta Division of Survey & Enforcement
Center for Clinical Standards & Quality

cc: Stephanie M. Davis
Louise Ryan
Vincent Davis
Sally Pitt
Shaquallah Shanks
Kristyn Long
Quality Improvement Organization
CMPRP Team