

Date: May 10, 1999

DSL-BQA-99-020

To: Hospitals

HOSP 10

From: Rita Prigioni, Interim Bureau Director  
Bureau of Quality Assurance

**Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter HFS 124 – Hospitals  
Critical Access Hospitals**

Effective February 1, 1999, Wisconsin Administrative Code, **Chapter HFS 124 – Hospitals**, was revised to include the operation of a new category of hospital called a critical access hospital (CAH). A critical access hospital is a rural limited medical services hospital that provides short-term inpatient and emergency hospital services. The critical access hospital designation is a voluntary option. Under the new federal Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, 42 USC 1395I-4, a state develops criteria to designate a hospital as a critical access hospital and by which the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services approves a facility as a critical access hospital.

The new Subchapter VI provides definitions, criteria for eligibility, application process, and the requirements for a critical access hospital.

Please share this information with the appropriate staff and direct any questions that you may have to Beth Stellberg, Chief, Health Services Section, at (608) 266-3878.

Attachment