# Hospital Signage Requirements

Emergency Room
Entrance



HOSPITAL SIGNAGE RI	HOSPITAL SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS			
NAME OF SIGN	WHO MUST COMPLY	DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT	LOCATION/ LANGUAGE/ SIGN AND FONT SIZE	
Accountable Care Organization Participant	Participants in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO)	ACO participants must notify beneficiaries that their ACO providers/suppliers are participating in the Medicare Shared Savings Program.  Legal Authority 42 C.F.R. Section 425.312(a)(2)	ACO participants must "post signs in their facilities."	
Ambulance Replenishing	Hospitals that replenish ambulances	The notice must include the category of ambulance providers that qualifies for replenishment, the drugs or medical supplies included in the replenishment program, and the procedures for documenting and replenishing.  Legal Authority 42 C.F.R. Section 1001.952(v)	The notice must be posted conspicuously in the receiving hospital's emergency room or other location where the ambulance providers deliver patients.	
Complaint and Client Advocacy Group Information	Skilled nursing facilities certified for Medicare and Medicaid	Skilled nursing facilities must post the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all pertinent state client advocacy groups such as the state survey and certification agency (DHSS), the state licensure office (DHSS), the state ombudsman program, the protection and advocacy network, and the Medicaid fraud control unit.  Legal Authority 42 C.F.R. Section 483.10(b)(7)		
Disabled Infants	Health care providers that provide health care services to infants in programs or activities that receive federal funding (including Medicare or Medicaid.	Hospitals must post a sign to inform employees that federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, and that under this law, nourishment and medically-beneficial treatment (as determined with respect for reasonable medical judgments) should not be withheld from handicapped infants solely on the basis of their mental or physical impairments. The sign must notify employees where to call for additional information on the law or to report noncompliance. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued two sample signs which	A sign must be posted where nurses and other medical professionals who are engaged in providing health care and related services to infants will see it (need not be posted where parents can see it). The sign must be at least 5 by 7 inches, and the type size no smaller than that generally used for similar internal communications to staff.	

<sup>\*</sup>Adapted from materials provided by the California Hospital Association.

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Disabled Infants (continued)		may be used (but is not required to be used) by hospitals that have a policy consistent with that stated therein; have a procedure for review of treatment deliberations and decisions to which the sign applies, such as an Infant Care Review Committee; operate an internal call line that keeps the identity of callers confidential; and do not retaliate against callers.  Legal Authority 45 C.F.R. Section 894.55(b)	
EMTALA: It's the Law!	Hospitals that participate in Medicare (including psychiatric hospitals)	Hospitals must post (in a form specified by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) the rights of individuals with respect to examination and treatment for emergency medical conditions and women in labor, and whether the hospital participates in the Medicaid program.  Legal Authority  42 U.S.C. Section 1395cc(a)(1)(N)(iii) and (iv); 42 C.F.R. Section 489.20(q)	Signs must be posted in a place or places likely to be noticed by all individuals entering the dedicated emergency department (on- and off-campus), as well as those individuals waiting for examination and treatment in areas other than traditional emergency departments (e.g., entrances, admitting area, waiting rooms, treatment areas). Posting of signs is not required in off-campus departments that are not dedicated emergency departments. Signs must be clear and in simple terms. Signs must be posted in English and other major languages that are common to the population of the hospital service area. The letters within the signs must be clearly readable at a distance of at least 20 feet, or from the expected vantage point of dedicated emergency department patrons.

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End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program: Performance Score Certificate	Renal dialysis services providers and facilities	The Medicare Dialysis Quality Incentive Program issues two-page "Performance Score Certificates" (PSCs) that providers and facilities must post. CMS will electronically notify facilities that the PSC is available to download from www.dialysisre- ports.org. The facility must post both pages of the certificate within five business days of the notice from CMS. The notice must be posted until the end of the calendar year. (See www.medicare.gov/dialysis for more information.)  Legal Authority 42 U.S.C. Section 1395rr(h)(6)(C)	The PSC must be prominently displayed in patient areas.	
Hill-Burton Community Service Assurance and Uncompensated Care Service	Recipients of federal funding under the Hill-Burton Act that have not completed their Hill-Burton obligations.	A facility receiving federal funding under Title VI or XVI of the Public Health Service Act (Hill-Burton grants to modernize hospitals) must make its facility (or that portion constructed or renovated with federal funds) available to all persons residing or employed in the geographic area it serves, and provide uncompensated services. The facility must acknowledge this obligation by making a "community service assurance" and posting a sign to that effect. The facility must also post a sign regarding the provision of uncompensated care. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will provide the required signs in English and Spanish.  Written Individual Notice that specifies the types of Hill-Burton free and reduced-cost services available and the income criteria is also required; http://www.hrsa.gov/gethealthcare/affordable/hillburton/  Legal Authority  42 C.F.R. Sections 124.501 et seq. (uncompensated care) and 124.601 et seq. (community service)	The law does not specify where the community service signs must be posted. Signs about uncompensated care must be posted in "appropriate areas in the facility, including, but not limited to, the admissions areas, the business office, and the emergency room" Signs must be posted in English and Spanish. If 10 percent or more of households in the facility's service area usually speak a language other than English or Spanish, the facility must translate the sign into that language(s) and post signs similar in size and legibility to the English and Spanish signs. In addition, the facility must make reasonable efforts to communicate the contents of the posted notice to persons it has reason to believe cannot read the notice.	

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Hill-Burton Community Service Assurance and Uncompensated Care Service (continued)			Sample Signs Facilities may obtain the signs by contacting the Health Resources and Services Administration at 800-638-0742.	
Mammography: Accreditation Certificate	A mammography facility — a hospital, outpatient department, clinic, radiology practice, mobile unit, physician office, or other facility as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that conducts breast cancer screening or diagnosis through mammography activities.	The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services issues a certification of accreditation to accredited mammography facilities.  Legal Authority 42 U.S.C Section 263b(b)(1)(A)(iii)	The certificate must be prominently displayed.	
Medicare and Medicaid Benefits	Skilled nursing facilities certified for Medicare and Medicaid	A skilled nursing facility must display written information about how to apply for and use Medicare and Medicaid benefits, and how to receive refunds for previous payments covered by such benefits.  Legal Authority 42 C.F.R. Section 483.10(b)(10)	The information must be prominently displayed in the facility.	
Notice of Privacy Practices	Covered entities under HIPAA	Each covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 must post its Notice of Privacy Practices. The notice must also be available on the covered entity's website for downloading.	Notices must be posted in a clear and prominent location where it is reasonable to expect individuals seeking services to be able to read it.	

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Notice of Privacy Practices (continued)		http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/und erstanding/coveredentities/notice.pdf; written notice on a website and in a form that patients may take with them is also required.		
		Legal Authority 45 C.F.R. Section 164.520(c)(2)(iii)(B)		
Patients Seen by Advance Practice Nurse	Offices where APNs prescribe under a collaboration practice agreement	A requirement that there shall be posted at every office where the advanced practice registered nurse is authorized to prescribe, in collaboration with a physician, a prominently displayed disclosure statement informing patients that they may be seen by an advanced practice registered nurse and have the right to see the collaborating physician;	Sign must be prominently displayed.	
		Legal Authority RSMo 334.104. 3. (3)		
Physician Not Present 24/7	Emergency departments in hospitals and critical access hospitals without a physician present at all times.	Each dedicated emergency department, as that term is defined in Sec. 489.24(b), in a hospital in which a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy is not present 24 hours per day, 7 days per week must post a notice conspicuously in a place or places likely to be noticed by all individuals entering the dedicated emergency department. The posted notice must state that the hospital does not have a doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy present in the hospital 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and must indicate how the hospital will meet the medical needs of any patient with an emergency medical condition, as defined in Sec. 489.24(b), at a time when there is no doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy present in the hospital.	The signs must be conspicuous.	
		Legal Authority 42 CFR 489.20(w(5)		

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NAME OF SIGN	WHO MUST COMPLY	DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT	LOCATION/ LANGUAGE/ SIGN AND FONT SIZE
Provider-Based Off-Campus Outpatient Locations	Hospitals that participate in Medicare and have off-campus, provider-based outpatient services	Provider-based facilities must make patients aware that they are entering a facility of the main provider (hospital) and will be billed accordingly. Technically, the law does not require signage, but most facilities use signage to fulfill this requirement. In addition, prior to delivery of services, the patient must receive written notice regarding his/her potential financial liability. If the exact type and extent of care needed are not known, the patient must receive a written explanation that the beneficiary will incur a coinsurance liability to the hospital that he or she would not incur if the facility were not provider-based; an estimate based on typical or average charges for visits to the facility; and a statement that the patient's actual liability will depend upon the actual services furnished by the hospital.  Legal Authority  42 C.F.R. Section 413.65(d)(4) and (g)(7)	The notice or signage must be one that Medicare beneficiaries can read and understand.
Radiation: Caution (federal)	Persons or entities licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Depending on the level of radiation, the area must be marked with a sign(s) that contains the radiation symbol and text as follows:  1. Radiation area (area where an individual could receive a dose in excess of 0.005 rem in 1 hour at 30 cm from source or from any surface the radiation penetrates):  "CAUTION, RADIATION AREA."  2. High radiation area (area where an individual could receive a dose in excess of 0.1 rem in 1 hour at 30 cm from source or any surface the radiation penetrates):  "CAUTION, HIGH RA- DIATION AREA."  3. Very high radiation area (area where an individual could receive a dose in excess of 500 rads rem in 1 hour at 1 meter from source or from any surface the radiation penetrates): "GRAVE DANGER, VERY HIGH RADIATION AREA."	The signs must be conspicuous.

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Radiation: Caution (federal) (continued)		4. Airborne radioactivity area (area where radioactive material is dispersed in the air in the form of dusts, fumes, particulates, mists, vapors, or gases): "CAUTION, AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY AREA" or "DANGER, AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY AREA."  5. Areas/room where licensed material is used or stored in an amount exceeding 10 times the quantity specified in appendix C to 10.  C.F.R. part 20: "CAUTION, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL(S)" or "DANGER, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL(S)"  Legal Authority  10 C.F.R. Sections 20.1003 and 20.1902		
Various U.S. Department of Labor		The U.S. Department of Labor has many generally applicable poster requirements under laws such as: OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act), FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act), FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act), and other federal laws. As applicable requirements can vary based on the size and nature of a business, interested parties are encouraged to visit the "poster advisor" website provided by the DOL to determine the specific posters required for their individual businesses at: http://www.dol.gov/elaws/posters.htm.	Form Poster	

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