



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION CERTIFICATION BUREAU PROVIDER INFORMATION NOTICE #010715

The Certification Bureau (Bureau) is implementing the CMS Electronic Plan of Correction Process (ePOC) on January 5, 2015, for health and life safety code surveys. The Bureau shares CMS's confidence in this new process; it is easier and less time-consuming for facilities than both the EPOC process Montana developed, and the manually typed 2567 process. With this new process, we will no longer mail paper 2567 Statement of Deficiencies to Long Term Care providers.

CMS has determined to limit the initial roll-out to Long Term Care facilities. If you have other facility types (CAH, NATP, etc...) you will continue to use the current EPOC process for those.

The new CMS process allows the facility staff to review the Statement of Deficiency information much faster. The process also permits several users to write, edit, and review tags before submitting them to the state agency. Facility staff can attach documentation they want the state agency to review. The Bureau will notify facility staff by email when the ePOC has been properly submitted and accepted.

The Bureau has prepared several documents explaining the process. A Webex presentation explaining the process is also available on the Bureau's website <http://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/Certification>. Facility staff can view this at any time.

If you want more detailed technical information, you can find it on <https://www.gtso.com>, or email the Bureau at epoc@mt.gov, and we will send you the procedure guide. Furthermore, please contact the Bureau office any time you have questions regarding this new process at 406-444-2099.

During the entrance conference of your next survey, you can expect the surveyors to ask if the facility has enrolled. If you have not, the surveyors will assist you. A facility can have up to four users. Corporate users can have access to all facilities within their corporations.

Thank you for your cooperation with this new CMS process.