

May 18, 2007

Alexander Spector
Acting Director
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
1660 South Columbian Way (S-002-QI)
Seattle, Washington 98108-1597

ORG ID: 103674

Dear Mr. Spector:

This is to confirm your organization's conversation with Linda Murphy-Knoll, Vice President of Accreditation Service Operations on May 17, 2007. During this conversation, Ms. Murphy-Knoll informed your organization that, based on the findings of the unannounced full survey conducted on May 14 - 17, 2007 at VA Puget Sound Health Care System, a decision to preliminarily deny accreditation to your organization has been reached. This decision will be presented to the Accreditation Committee of the Board of Commissioners at an upcoming meeting.

This action is being taken based on the observations and findings of the survey, which identified conditions that poses a serious threat to public or patient health and safety. Specifically, these observations and findings were:

- Risks in the patient room environment that include: inappropriate patient bathroom grab bars, shower curtain rods, shower heads, unprotected under sink plumbing, exposed door hinges, inappropriate beds, fire extinguisher cabinets with glass panels, IV poles under beds, etc.
- Failure to implement corrective action plans based upon risk assessments of the patient environment
- Failure to implement Interim Life Safety Measures due to the presence of identified risks
- Inadequate process for identifying high risk psychiatric patients and providing appropriate protection from self-harm

When a surveyor identifies any condition in an accredited organization that poses a serious threat to public or patient/resident safety, the President of the Joint Commission, or his designee, is authorized to make a decision to preliminarily deny accreditation and to promptly notify the chief executive officer, as well as governmental authorities having jurisdiction over the organization, of this decision. This procedure is in accordance with the General Administrative Policies and Procedures of the Joint Commission, as outlined in the current *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*.

The Accreditation Committee may take into consideration your organization's corrective actions to this immediate threat situation when making its accreditation decision. If your organization can demonstrate, via an on-site validation survey, that the immediate threat to life situation has been rectified before your organization's case is heard by the Accreditation Committee, the Committee may render a decision other than Preliminary Denial of Accreditation.



A draft copy of your organization's survey findings will be sent to you shortly. If you choose to clarify the findings from your full survey, the clarification must be submitted within ten (10) business days of receipt of the survey findings. If you do not respond to the survey findings within (10) business days of its receipt, a final decision of Preliminary Denial of Accreditation will be forwarded to your organization.

If you have any questions about this notification, please contact Linda Murphy-Knoll. She can be reached at (630) 792-5860.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Murphy-Knoll
Interim Executive Vice President
Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations