

# *cteam* NEWS RELEASE

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## **CMS Approval Of Compliance Team Seen As Benefit To Small DMEPOS Providers**

**11/27/06 Spring House, Pennsylvania**--The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced in a Press Release on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> that The Compliance Team, Inc. is one of 11 national accreditation organizations that have been formally approved as accrediting bodies for suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and/or Supplies (DMEPOS) who participate in Medicare.

Reacting to the news, Sandra C. Canally, RN, Founder and President of the privately owned, independent healthcare evaluation firm based in suburban Philadelphia viewed CMS' formal approval as further validation of her ground breaking work in bringing about a dramatic simplification of the DMEPOS accreditation process; one that she says will benefit small and medium size businesses seeking to comply to the mandatory accreditation tenets of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA).

"We believe that our Exemplary Provider™ Accreditation for DMEPOS is a perfect match for today's hard pressed providers. It was especially developed for those who are looking for a program that is streamlined and user friendly," Canally observed. The program's principal author and architect went on to add that she believes that it is exactly those qualities about her program that went a long way in helping them get CMS approval.

The Compliance Team launched its Exemplary Provider™ brand of healthcare accreditation in 1998. As the source of the industry's only measured continuous quality improvement accreditation plans, the company markets itself to small and medium size providers as a sensible alternative to more traditional programs put forward by other healthcare accreditors such as the JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) and the Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC).

Canally, who earlier in her career was a pioneer Nurse Oncologist at Hahnemann and Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals in Philadelphia explained that her twelve-year-old, for-profit, company was the first to champion the simplification of DMEPOS accreditation. "As a small business, we are especially sensitive to the realities that these (DMEPOS) owners are confronted with every day. That's why we start them off by giving them plain language, easy to understand quality standards and a Preparation CD that contains examples of all the different required documents," she revealed.

In addition to developing the industry's first service and product-line specific quality standards, the closely held company gained its national reputation in part for being the first to forward the concept of an all-inclusive accreditation process in which participants receive Self-assessment Checklists as well as expert assistance from Accreditation Advisors who conduct Orientation teleconferences and answer any ongoing questions about specific program requirements. Along with the many healthcare evaluation innovations that it has introduced in recent years, the Compliance Team has been cited by the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) for its fraud and abuse awareness measures, and is now recognized as an accreditation choice by managed care around the nation. (See [exemplaryprovider.com](http://www.exemplaryprovider.com) for partial list.)

The Compliance Team presently has participants in its program who are doing business in all fifty states and Puerto Rico. However, Canally expects a sharp increase in business now that they have gained formal CMS approval. "Ever since March 2003 when the MMA was passed, we have been anticipating this day," she confided. "In February (2006) we moved to more spacious quarters to accommodate our growing corporate staff. Since then we have brought on-board more than a dozen top notch industry professionals to serve as Accreditation Advisors and to do On-site Evaluations," she concluded.

According to CMS, the next phase of the MMA implementation will be the naming of the first 10 metro areas in which competitive bidding will take place. By law, any provider who wishes to participate in the Medicare program going forward must become accredited by a CMS approved DMEPOS accrediting body. For more info about mandatory accreditation or competitive bidding go to [www.cms.hhs.gov/competitiveacqfordmepos](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/competitiveacqfordmepos) or contact The Compliance Team, Inc..