

To cite deficient practice at F 771, the surveyor's investigation will generally show that the facility failed to:

- Provide transfusion services in accordance with the requirements for laboratories specified in part §493 to meet the needs of the residents.

§483.50(a)(1)

(iii) If the laboratory chooses to refer specimens for testing to another laboratory, the referral laboratory must be certified in the appropriate specialties and subspecialties of services in accordance with the requirements of part 493 of this chapter.

There is no Tag for §483.50(a)(1)(iii). Nursing home surveyors should not attempt to determine compliance with the requirements in 42 CFR part §493 but should refer questions or concerns to the State Agency or CMS *Location* for appropriate follow-up by CLIA surveyors.

F772

(Rev. 229; Issued: 04-25-25; Effective: 04-25-25; Implementation: 04-28-25)

§483.50(a)(1) The facility must provide or obtain laboratory services to meet the needs of its residents. The facility is responsible for the quality and timeliness of the services.

(iv) If the facility does not provide laboratory services on site, it must have an agreement to obtain these services from a laboratory that meets the applicable requirements of part 493 of this chapter.

GUIDANCE §483.50(a)(1)(iv)

If the facility does not provide laboratory services on site, it must have a written agreement to provide services from a laboratory which meets the requirements of 42 CFR part §493.

Nursing home surveyors should not attempt to determine compliance with the requirements in 42 CFR part §493 but should refer questions or concerns to the State Agency or CMS *Location* for appropriate follow-up by CLIA surveyors. If verified by CLIA surveyors that requirements in part §493 were not met cite a deficiency under this Tag, F772.

F773

(Rev. 173, Issued: 11-22-17, Effective: 11-28-17, Implementation: 11-28-17)

§483.50(a)(2) The facility must—

- (i) Provide or obtain laboratory services only when ordered by a physician; physician assistant; nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist in accordance with State law, including scope of practice laws.**
- (ii) Promptly notify the ordering physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist of laboratory results that fall outside of clinical reference ranges in accordance with facility policies and procedures for notification of a practitioner or per the ordering physician's orders.**

GUIDANCE §483.50(a)(2)(i)(ii)

For purposes of this requirement “promptly” means that results shall be relayed with little or no delay to the ordering physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist according to facility policies and procedures for notification and the medical orders.

Facility policies and procedures should be developed in consultation with the medical director and follow current standards of practice. Such policies may include defining categories that are considered outside clinical reference ranges for laboratory values, the urgency of reporting values, and a process for monitoring the effectiveness of communication to ensure that communication was received, and delegation by the ordering provider to a qualified on-call individual as appropriate.

PROCEDURES

When reviewing the resident's medical record, surveyors would determine that laboratory services were provided only when ordered by a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist in accordance with State law, including scope of practice laws, and facility staff and the ordering provider(s) were promptly notified of the results.

If test results were not acted upon in a timely manner by the physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or by facility staff as ordered, consider additional review for possible deficient practices under Medical Director, Nursing Services, Quality of Care or Quality of Life requirements. Do not cite any related or associated requirements before first conducting an investigation to determine compliance or non-compliance with the related or associated requirement.

KEY ELEMENTS OF NONCOMPLIANCE

To cite deficient practice at F773, the surveyor's investigation will generally show that the facility failed to do any one or more of the following:

- Obtain or provide laboratory services without an order by a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist in accordance with State law, including scope of practice laws; **OR**
- Promptly notify the ordering physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist of laboratory results according to facility policies and procedures for notification and the medical orders.