

# **Indiana State Department of Health Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission**

## **Commission Overview**

The ISDH Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission is responsible for programs in the areas of health care facility licensing and certification, healthcare quality, vital records, and weights and measures. Through its programs, the Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission:

- Promotes healthcare quality
- Licenses and certifies health care facilities, centers, agencies and providers
- Ensures accurate state vital records and statistics
- Ensures accurate state standards for weights, measures and metrology

The Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission is organized into five divisions and almost 60 program areas. The following are the five divisions with a few program areas:

1. Division of Acute Care
  - a. Health care engineering programs
2. Division of Health Care Education and Quality
3. Division of Long Term Care
4. Division of Program Development and Quality Promotion
  - a. Medical Radiology Licensing Program
  - b. Division of Weights, Measures, and Metrology
5. Office of Vital Records

### **Office of Vital Records**

The Office of Vital Records serves the important function of maintaining state birth, death, and marriage records. The Office has records dating back to 1907. The Office of Vital Records is responsible for collection and registration of birth, death, and fetal death certificates; marriage records; birth problems registry; adoption medical history reports; and termination of pregnancy reports.

### **Division of Weights, Measures, and Metrology**

The Division of Weights, Measures, and Metrology was founded in 1911 as part of the then Indiana State Board of Health. The Weights, Measures and Metrology Program is responsible for maintaining state weight and measure standards and certifying weights for government, business, and industry. Its primary function is to inspect and test all devices used for weighing and measuring activities in the marketplace and all packages declaring a weight or measure. Among other activities, the program provides oversight of octane fuel testing, scale testing, and fuel pump accuracy.

The Division has received *Calibration Laboratories Accreditation* by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), Lab Code 200421-0, of the United States

Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology. This accreditation is important for international business transactions.

The Division is also certified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with the *Certificate of Measurement Traceability* designating Indiana's participation in the NIST Weights and Measures Measurement Assurance Program.

### **Health Care Facility Licensing and Certification**

The Commission serves as the State Survey Agency for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS is responsible for the certification of health care providers for participation in the Medicare program. The Commission is the state licensing agency for health care facilities. The Commission is responsible for the state licensing and/or federal certification of 31 categories of health care facilities. Facilities receive a comprehensive survey anywhere from annually to once every eight years. The Commission performs complaint surveys as complaints are received.

The Division of Acute Care includes health care facilities such as hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, home health agencies, hospice agencies, dialysis centers, and clinical laboratories. There are a total of 28 types of acute care facilities that are licensed and/or certified by the ISDH. There are approximately 6,600 licensed and/or certified acute care providers in Indiana.

The Division of Long Term Care includes nursing homes, residential care facilities, group homes, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID formerly ICF/MR) and life safety code enforcement. There are over 1,250 long term care providers in Indiana.

The Commission is responsible for the licensing, certification, or registration of some individual health care providers. This includes radiologic technologists, certified nurse aides, home health aides, and qualified medication aides. There are approximately 12,000 radiologic technologists licensed by the ISDH and 50,000 certified nurse aides registered by the ISDH.

### **Health Care Quality Improvement**

The Commission collaborates with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on healthcare quality improvement projects. In this capacity, the Commission has led statewide quality improvement initiatives on healthcare issues such as pressure ulcers and healthcare associated infections. The Commission has sponsored quality of care conferences and projects on a wide variety of topics to include Alzheimer's, falls, nutrition, incontinence care, patient safety, and emergency preparedness.

The Commission promotes healthcare quality improvement through the tracking of data. Since 2006, the Medical Error Reporting System has tracked 28 types of adverse events occurring at hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. Beginning in 2012, the Commission began tracking healthcare associated infections occurring at hospitals.

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