

Attachment A

Provider Instructions for Completing the QMB Plan of Correction (POC) Process

Introduction:

After a QMB Compliance Survey, your QMB Report of Findings will be sent to you via e-mail.

Each provider must develop and implement a Plan of Correction (POC) that identifies specific quality assurance and quality improvement activities the agency will implement to correct deficiencies and prevent continued deficiencies and non-compliance.

Agencies must submit their Plan of Correction within ten (10) business days from the date you receive the QMB Report of Findings. (Providers who do not submit a POC within 10 business days may be referred to the DDS Regional Office for purposes of contract management or the Internal Review Committee [IRC] for possible actions or sanctions).

Agencies must fully implement their approved Plan of Correction within 45 business days (10 business days to submit your POC for approval and 35 days to implement your approved Plan of Correction) from the date they receive the QMB Report of Findings. Providers who fail to complete a POC within the 45-business days allowed will be referred to the IRC for possible actions or sanctions.

If you have questions about the Plan of Correction process, call the Plan of Correction Coordinator at 505-273-1930 or email at MonicaE.Valdez@state.nm.us. Requests for technical assistance must be requested through your Regional DDS Office.

The POC process cannot resolve disputes regarding findings. If you wish to dispute a finding on the official Report of Findings, you must file an Informal Reconsideration of Findings (IRF) request within ten (10) business days of receiving your report. Please note that you must still submit a POC for findings that are in question (see Attachment C).

Instructions for Completing Agency POC:

Required Content

Your Plan of Correction should provide a step-by-step description of the methods to correct each deficient practice cited to prevent recurrence and information that ensures the regulation cited comes into and remains in compliance. The remedies noted in your POC are expected to be added to your Agency's required, annual Quality Assurance (QA) Plan.

If a deficiency has already been corrected since the on-site survey, the plan should state how it was corrected, the completion date (date the correction was accomplished), and how possible recurrence of the deficiency will be prevented.

The following details should be considered when developing your Plan of Correction:

The Plan of Correction must address each deficiency cited in the Report of Findings unless otherwise noted with a "No Plan of Correction Required statement." The Plan of Correction must address the five (5) areas listed below:

1. How the specific and realistic corrective action will be accomplished for individuals found to have been affected by the deficient practice.
2. How the agency will identify other individuals who have the potential to be affected by the same deficient practice, and how the agency will act to protect those individuals in similar situations.
3. What Quality Assurance measures will be put into place and what systemic changes made to ensure the deficient practice will not recur.
4. Indicate how the agency plans to monitor its performance to make certain solutions are sustained. The agency must develop a QA plan for ensuring correction is achieved and

- sustained. This QA plan must be implemented, and the corrective action is evaluated for its effectiveness. The plan of correction is integrated into the agency quality assurance system; and
5. Include dates when corrective actions will be completed. The corrective action completion dates must be acceptable to the State.

The following details should be considered when developing your Plan of Correction:

- Details about how and when Individual Served, agency personnel and administrative and service delivery site files are audited by agency personnel to ensure they contain required documents;
- Information about how medication administration records are reviewed to verify they contain all required information before they are distributed to service sites, as they are being used, and after they are completed;
- Your processes for ensuring that all required agency personnel are trained on required DDSD required trainings;
- How accuracy in billing/reimbursement documentation is assured;
- How health, safety is assured;
- For Case Management providers, how Individual Service Plans are reviewed to verify they meet requirements, how the timeliness of level of care (LOC) packet submissions and consumer visits are tracked;
- Your process for gathering, analyzing and responding to quality data indicators; and,
- Details about Quality Targets in various areas, current status, analyses about why targets were not met, and remedies implemented.

Note: Instruction or in-service of staff alone may not be a sufficient plan of correction. This is a good first step toward correction, but additional steps must be taken to ensure the deficiency is corrected and will not recur.

Completion Dates

- The plan of correction must include a **completion date** (entered in the far right-hand column) for each finding. Be sure the date is **realistic** in the amount of time your Agency will need to correct the deficiency; not to exceed 45 total business days.
- Direct care issues should be corrected immediately and monitored appropriately.
- Some deficiencies may require a staged plan to accomplish total correction.
- Deficiencies requiring replacement of equipment, etc., may require more time to accomplish correction but should show reasonable time frames.

Initial Submission of the Plan of Correction Requirements

1. The Plan of Correction must be completed on the official QMB Survey Report of Findings/Plan of Correction Form and received by QMB within ten (10) business days from the date you received the report of findings.
2. For questions about the POC process, call the POC Coordinator, Monica Valdez at 505-273-1930 or email at MonicaE.Valdez@state.nm.us for assistance.
3. For Technical Assistance (TA) in developing or implementing your POC, contact your Regional DDSD Office.
4. Submit your POC to Monica Valdez, POC Coordinator in any of the following ways:
 - a. Electronically at MonicaE.Valdez@state.nm.us (**preferred method**)
 - b. Fax to 505-222-8661, or
 - c. Mail to POC Coordinator, 5301 Central Ave NE Suite 400, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
5. Do not submit supporting documentation (evidence of compliance) to QMB until after your POC has been approved by the QMB.
6. QMB will notify you when your POC has been “approved” or “denied.”
 - a. During this time, whether your POC is “approved,” or “denied,” you will have a maximum of 45-business days from the date of receipt of your Report of Findings to correct all survey deficiencies.

- b. If your POC is denied, it must be revised and resubmitted as soon as possible, as the 45-business day limit is in effect.
 - c. If your POC is denied a second time your agency may be referred to the Internal Review Committee.
 - d. You will receive written confirmation when your POC has been approved by QMB and a final deadline for completion of your POC.
 - e. Please note that all POC correspondence will be sent electronically unless otherwise requested.
7. Failure to submit your POC within 10 business days without prior approval of an extension by QMB will result in a referral to the Internal Review Committee and the possible implementation of monetary penalties and/or sanctions.

POC Document Submission Requirements

Once your POC has been approved by the QMB Plan of Correction Coordinator you must submit copies of documents as evidence that all deficiencies have been corrected, as follows.

1. Your internal documents are due within a *maximum* of 45-business days of receipt of your Report of Findings.
2. It is preferred that you submit your documents via USPS or other carrier (scanned and saved to CD/DVD disc, flash drive, etc.). If documents containing HIPAA Protected Health Information (PHI) documents must be submitted through S-Comm (Therap), Fax or Postal System, do not send PHI directly to NMDOH email accounts. If the documents do not contain protected Health information (PHI) then you may submit your documents electronically scanned and attached to e-mails.
3. All submitted documents *must be annotated*; please be sure the tag numbers and Identification numbers are indicated on each document submitted. Documents which are not annotated with the Tag number and Identification number may not be accepted.
4. Do not submit original documents; Please provide copies or scanned electronic files for evidence. Originals must be maintained in the agency file(s) per DDSD Standards.
5. In lieu of some documents, you may submit copies of file or home audit forms that clearly indicate cited deficiencies have been corrected, other attestations of correction must be approved by the Plan of Correction Coordinator prior to their submission.
6. When billing deficiencies are cited, you must provide documentation to justify billing and/or void and adjust forms submitted to Xerox State Healthcare, LLC for the deficiencies cited in the Report of Findings.

Revisions, Modifications or Extensions to your Plan of Correction (post QMB approval) must be made in writing and submitted to the Plan of Correction Coordinator, prior to the due date and are approved on a case-by-case basis. No changes may be made to your POC or the timeframes for implementation without written approval of the POC Coordinator.