

The Virgin Islands Consortium

CMS Extends System Improvement Agreement For JFL Until January

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ST. CROIX -- The Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center (JFL) recently received correspondence from the Department of Health & Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) extending JFL's System Improvement Agreement (SIA), a press release issued late Tuesday has made known.

The letter from CMS, dated December 21, 2015, extends the SIA currently set to expire on December 31, 2015, until January 30, 2016. The reason is to allow adequate time for completion of a necessary administrative issue following its recent survey, according to the release.

CMS surveyors were in the territory during the week of December 7-11 to conduct a five-day Conditions of Participation (CoPs) hospital survey. The survey included record and document reviews, interviews and observation. The six-member delegation looked at JFL's improvements, and the efforts the JFL team put into achieving compliance under its SIA, and sustaining that compliance.

JFL executives were advised by CMS officials during the visit that the official results would not be available for at least ten days, which is a customary practice according to Greeley Associates Bud Pate.

CMS has oversight for compliance with the Medicare health and safety standards for laboratories, and acute and continuing care providers, which includes hospitals. The federal agency's surveys are conducted to determine how well those health care entities comply with the CoPs requirements.