



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

Electronically delivered
May 22, 2025

Administrator
Hilltop Health Care Center
410 Luella Street
Watkins, MN 55389

RE: CCN: 245358
Cycle Start Date: May 14, 2025

Dear Administrator:

On May 14, 2025, a survey was completed at your facility by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Public Safety, to determine if your facility was in compliance with Federal participation requirements for skilled nursing facilities and/or nursing facilities participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.

This survey found the most serious deficiencies in your facility to be a pattern of deficiencies that constituted no actual harm with potential for more than minimal harm that was not immediate jeopardy (Level E), as evidenced by the electronically attached CMS-2567 whereby corrections are required.

ELECTRONIC PLAN OF CORRECTION (ePoC)

Within **ten (10) calendar days** after your receipt of this notice, you must submit an acceptable ePOC for the deficiencies cited. An acceptable ePOC will serve as your allegation of compliance. Upon receipt of an acceptable ePOC, we will authorize a revisit to your facility to determine if substantial compliance has been achieved.

To be acceptable, a provider's ePOC must include the following:

- How corrective action will be accomplished for those residents found to have been affected by the deficient practice.
- How the facility will identify other residents having the potential to be affected by the same deficient practice.
- What measures will be put into place, or systemic changes made, to ensure that the deficient practice will not recur.
- How the facility will monitor its corrective actions to ensure that the deficient practice is being corrected and will not recur.
- The date that each deficiency will be corrected.
- An electronic acknowledgement signature and date by an official facility representative.

The state agency may, in lieu of an onsite revisit, determine correction and compliance by accepting the facility's ePoC if the ePoC is reasonable, addresses the problem and provides evidence that the corrective action has occurred.

If an acceptable ePoC is not received within 10 calendar days from the receipt of this letter, we will recommend to the CMS Region V Office that one or more of the following remedies be imposed:

- Denial of payment for new Medicare and Medicaid admissions (42 CFR 488.417);
- Civil money penalty (42 CFR 488.430 through 488.444).
- Termination of your facility's Medicare and/or Medicaid agreement (488.456(b)).

DEPARTMENT CONTACT

Questions regarding all documents submitted as a response to the Life Safety Code deficiencies (those preceded by a "K" tag), i.e., the plan of correction, request for waivers, should be directed to:

Travis Z. Ahrens
State Fire Safety Supervisor
Health Care & Correctional Facilities
MN Department of Public Safety-Fire Marshal Division
445 Minnesota St., Suite 145
St. Paul, MN 55101
Email: travis.ahrens@state.mn.us
Web: www.sfm.dps.mn.gov
Cell: 1-507-308-4189

PRESUMPTION OF COMPLIANCE - CREDIBLE ALLEGATION OF COMPLIANCE

The facility's ePoC will serve as your allegation of compliance upon the Department's acceptance. In order for your allegation of compliance to be acceptable to the Department, the ePoC must meet the criteria listed in the plan of correction section above. You will be notified by the Minnesota Department of Health, Licensing and Certification Program staff and/or the Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division staff, if your ePoC for the respective deficiencies (if any) is acceptable.

VERIFICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE

Upon receipt of an acceptable ePoC, a Post Certification Revisit (PCR), of your facility will be conducted to validate that substantial compliance with the regulations has been attained in accordance with your verification.

If substantial compliance has been achieved, certification of your facility in the Medicare and/or Medicaid program(s) will be continued and remedies will not be imposed. Compliance is certified as of the latest correction date on the approved ePoC, unless it is determined that either correction actually

occurred between the latest correction date on the ePoC and the date of the first revisit, or correction occurred sooner than the latest correction date on the ePoC.

FAILURE TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE BY THE THIRD OR SIXTH MONTH AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE SURVEY

If substantial compliance with the regulations is not verified by August 14, 2025 (three months after the identification of noncompliance), the CMS Region V Office must deny payment for new admissions as mandated by the Social Security Act (the Act) at Sections 1819(h)(2)(D) and 1919(h)(2)(C) and Federal regulations at 42 CFR Section 488.417(b).

In addition, if substantial compliance with the regulations is not verified by November 14, 2025 (six months after the identification of noncompliance) your provider agreement will be terminated. This action is mandated by the Social Security Act at Sections 1819(h)(2)(C) and 1919(h)(3)(D) and Federal regulations at 42 CFR Sections 488.412 and 488.456.

Please note that this notice does not constitute formal notice of imposition of alternative remedies or termination of your provider agreement. Should the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determine that termination or any other remedy is warranted, it will provide you with a separate formal notification of that determination.

INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (IDR)

In accordance with 42 CFR 488.331 and Minnesota Statute 144A.10 subd 15, you have one opportunity to question cited deficiencies through an informal dispute resolution process. You are required to send your written request, along with the specific deficiencies being disputed, and an explanation of why you are disputing those deficiencies, to: <https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/NHDisputeResolution>

This request must be sent within the same ten calendar days you have for submitting an ePoC for the cited deficiencies. Please note that the failure to complete the informal dispute resolution process will not delay the dates specified for compliance or the imposition of remedies.

A copy of the Department's informal dispute resolution policies is posted on the MDH Information Bulletin website at: https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/infobulletins/ib04_8.html

INDEPENDENT INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (INDEPENDENT IDR)

In accordance with 42 CFR § 488.431 and Minnesota Statute 144A.10 subd 16, when a CMP subject to being collected and placed in an escrow account is imposed, you have one opportunity to question cited deficiencies through an Independent IDR process. You may also contest scope and severity assessments for deficiencies which resulted in a finding of SQC or immediate jeopardy. You are required to send your written request, along with the specific deficiencies being disputed, and an explanation of why you are disputing those deficiencies, to:
<https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/NHDisputeResolution>

Hilltop Health Care Center

May 22, 2025

Page 4

A facility may not use both IDR and independent IDR for the same deficiency citation(s) arising from the same survey unless the IDR process was completed prior to the imposition of the CMP. This request must be sent within ten calendar days of receipt of this offer. An incomplete Independent IDR process will not delay the effective date of any enforcement action.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kamala Fiske-Downing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kamala Fiske-Downing

Compliance Analyst | Federal Enforcement

Health Regulation Division

Minnesota Department of Health

Kamala.Fiske-Downing@state.mn.us

Office: 651-201-4112

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

PRINTED: 06/05/2025
FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 0938-0391

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 245358	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING _____ B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/14/2025
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER			STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 410 LUELLA STREET WATKINS, MN 55389		
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)	ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)	(X5) COMPLETION DATE	
E 000	Initial Comments On 5/12/25 through 5/14/25, a survey for compliance with §483.73, Appendix Z, Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities was conducted during a standard recertification survey. The facility was IN compliance. The facility is enrolled in ePOC and therefore a signature is not required at the bottom of the first page of the CMS-2567 form. Although no plan of correction is required, it is required that the facility acknowledge receipt of the electronic documents.	E 000			
F 000	INITIAL COMMENTS On 5/12/25 through 5/14/25, a standard recertification survey was completed at your facility by the Minnesota Department of Health to determine if your facility was in compliance with the requirements at 42 CFR Part 483, Subpart B, Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities. Your facility was IN compliance. The facility is enrolled in ePOC and therefore a signature is not required at the bottom of the first page of the CMS-2567 form. Although no plan of correction is required, the facility must acknowledge receipt of the electronic documents.	F 000			

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE	TITLE	(X6) DATE
Electronically Signed		05/22/2025

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 245358		(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 01 - MAIN BUILDING 01 B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/13/2025	
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER				STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 410 LUELLA STREET WATKINS, MN 55389			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)			ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)		(X5) COMPLETION DATE
K 000	INITIAL COMMENTS FIRE SAFETY An annual Life Safety Code survey was conducted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division on 05/13/2025. At the time of this survey, Hilltop Care Center Building 01 was found not in compliance with the requirements for participation in Medicare/Medicaid at 42 CFR, Subpart 483.70(a), Life Safety from Fire, and the 2012 edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101, Life Safety Code (LSC), Chapter 19 Existing Health Care and the 2012 edition of NFPA 99, Health Care Facilities Code. THE FACILITY'S POC WILL SERVE AS YOUR ALLEGATION OF COMPLIANCE UPON THE DEPARTMENT'S ACCEPTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE CMS-2567 FORM WILL BE USED AS VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE. UPON RECEIPT OF AN ACCEPTABLE POC, AN ONSITE REVISIT OF YOUR FACILITY MAY BE CONDUCTED TO VALIDATE THAT SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS HAS BEEN ATTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR VERIFICATION. PLEASE RETURN THE PLAN OF CORRECTION FOR THE FIRE SAFETY DEFICIENCIES (K-TAGS) TO: IF PARTICIPATING IN THE E-POC PROCESS, A PAPER COPY OF THE PLAN OF CORRECTION IS NOT REQUIRED.			K 000			

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE	TITLE	(X6) DATE
Electronically Signed		05/28/2025

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

PRINTED: 05/29/2025
FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 0938-0391

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 245358		(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 01 - MAIN BUILDING 01 B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/13/2025	
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER				STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 410 LUELLA STREET WATKINS, MN 55389			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)			ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)		(X5) COMPLETION DATE
K 000	Continued From page 1 Healthcare Fire Inspections State Fire Marshal Division 445 Minnesota St., Suite 145 St. Paul, MN 55101-5145, OR By email to: FM.HC.Inspections@state.mn.us THE PLAN OF CORRECTION FOR EACH DEFICIENCY MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: 1. A detailed description of the corrective action taken or planned to correct the deficiency. 2. Address the measures that will be put in place to ensure the deficiency does not reoccur. 3. Indicate how the facility plans to monitor future performance to ensure solutions are sustained. 4. Identify who is responsible for the corrective actions and monitoring of compliance. 5. The actual or proposed date for completion of the remedy. Hilltop Care Center Building 01 was constructed in 1978, is one-story in height, has no basement, is fully fire sprinkler protected, and was determined to be of Type II (111) construction. The facility has a fire alarm system with smoke detection in corridors and spaces open to the corridors, which is monitored for automatic fire department notification. The facility has a capacity of 47 beds and had a			K 000			

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 245358		(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 01 - MAIN BUILDING 01 B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/13/2025	
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER				STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 410 LUELLA STREET WATKINS, MN 55389			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)			ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)		(X5) COMPLETION DATE
K 000	Continued From page 2 census of 45 at the time of the survey.			K 000			
K 372 SS=E	The requirement at 42 CFR, Subpart 483.70(a) is NOT MET as evidenced by: Subdivision of Building Spaces - Smoke Barrie CFR(s): NFPA 101 Subdivision of Building Spaces - Smoke Barrier Construction 2012 EXISTING Smoke barriers shall be constructed to a 1/2-hour fire resistance rating per 8.5. Smoke barriers shall be permitted to terminate at an atrium wall. Smoke dampers are not required in duct penetrations in fully ducted HVAC systems where an approved sprinkler system is installed for smoke compartments adjacent to the smoke barrier. 19.3.7.3, 8.6.7.1(1) Describe any mechanical smoke control system in REMARKS. This REQUIREMENT is not met as evidenced by: Based on observation and staff interview, the facility failed to maintain smoke barriers per NFPA 101 (2012 edition), Life Safety Code, sections 19.3.7.3, and 8.5.6.2. Tese deficient findings could have a patterned impact on the residents within the facility. Findings include: 1. On 05/13/2025 between 9:15 and 11:00 AM, it was revealed by observation that there was a conduit and pipe penetrating the smoke barrier that was not properly fire caulked above the smoke barrier doors by Room 202.			K 372	On 5/13/25 the conduit and piping around 202 and 300 were caulked and pictures were sent to the fire Marshal. The Maintenance Director will audit and fix any piping not properly fire caulked above the smoke barrier doors in the building.		5/30/25

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 245358	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 01 - MAIN BUILDING 01 B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/13/2025
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER			STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 410 LUELLA STREET WATKINS, MN 55389		
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)	ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)	(X5) COMPLETION DATE	
K 372	Continued From page 3 2. On 05/13/2025 between 9:15 and 11:00 AM, it was revealed by observation that there was conduit penetrating the smoke barrier that was not properly fire caulked above the smoke barrier doors by Room 300. An interview with the Maintenance Director verified these deficient findings at the time of discovery.	K 372			

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 245358		(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 02 - 410 LUELLA STREET B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/13/2025	
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER				STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 410 LUELLA STREET WATKINS, MN 55389			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)			ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)		(X5) COMPLETION DATE
K 000	INITIAL COMMENTS FIRE SAFETY An annual Life Safety Code survey was conducted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division on 05/13/2025. At the time of this survey, Hilltop Health Care Center Building 02 was found in compliance with the requirements for participation in Medicare/Medicaid at 42 CFR, Subpart 483.70(a), Life Safety from Fire, and the 2012 edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101, Life Safety Code (LSC), Chapter 18 New Health Care Occupancies and the 2012 edition of NFPA 99, the Health Care Facilities Code. Hilltop Care Center Building 02 is a 6 bed addition that was constructed in 2021, is one-story in height, has no basement, is fully fire sprinkler protected, and was determined to be of Type II (111) construction. The facility has a fire alarm system with smoke detection in corridors and spaces open to the corridors which is monitored for automatic fire department notification. The facility has a capacity of 47 beds and had a census of 45 at time of the survey. The requirement at 42 CFR, Subpart 483.70(a) is MET.			K 000			

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE	TITLE	(X6) DATE
Electronically Signed		05/28/2025

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.