



DNV WATCHDOG

Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. or DNV, as it is more commonly known, has recently entered the scene of hospital accreditation by receiving deemed status by CMS. The privately owned Norwegian based company was featured in an article in the October, 2008 issue of Modern Healthcare, and is described by some executives as a "refreshing change to the standard processes now available in the healthcare industry."¹ According to David Harlow's Health Care Law Blog, DNV has developed National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organization (NIAHO) standards that combine Medicare Conditions of Participation (COPs) and ISO 9001, a quality management standard.²



The message from DNV is that their accreditation principles give the hospital expected outcomes, but do not dictate the precise method or procedure to achieve the outcome. Depending on the resources of the hospital, this could provide an opportunity for innovation or a major challenge to limited resources to develop goals and standards to achieve the outcomes.

HealthBlawger reports one current potential problem that could arise for hospitals choosing DNV accreditation is state licensure regulations which require a licensure survey by state surveyors unless the hospital is Joint Commission accredited. Each state's requirements are different and need to be checked as the decision to change is considered. Another issue cited by Modern Healthcare would be the need for DNV to find support from insurers.

BESLER Consulting plans to continue monitoring the DNV information as it is communicated and will keep you up to date with the latest news in our next issue.

¹ DerGurahian, Jean, DNV setting new standard. *Modern Healthcare*, October 27, 2008, pp.2-4.

² Harlow, David, DNV Senior Execs Speak With David Harlow About New Hospital Accreditation Authority, *HealthBlawg*, November 06, 2008.