



ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION
Medical Quality Assurance

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GENERAL MEMORANDUM No. 0205-06

For Immediate Distribution

TO: Alabama Hospitals
Administrator - Please distribute immediately to staff as follows:
Chief of Staff
Utilization Review/Quality Assurance Department
Medical Records Department
PPS Contact
Compliance Officer
HPMP Contact, and
Case Managers

FROM: E. Eugene Marsh, MD, Medical Director 

Henry W. Koehler, Chief Executive Officer 

DATE: January 5, 2004

SUBJECT: REVISED MEDICARE SEVERITY OF ILLNESS/INTENSITY OF SERVICE (SI/IS) CRITERIA

- I. This General Memorandum provides you with the recently revised screening criteria for Medicare patients admitted to acute care hospitals in Alabama.
- II. AQAF will begin using this criteria for cases reviewed after February 5, 2004. This revision replaces all previous criteria updates and revisions. Providers should begin using the criteria upon receipt.
- III. The revised criteria set was reviewed and updated by AQAF in cooperation with provider and physician specialists representing medical specialty societies throughout the state. It is a screening tool designed for use by non-physician reviewers to identify hospital admissions and continued stays not appearing to be medically necessary or appropriate. It is not a guide to the physician in treating the patient and does not constitute a standard of medical practice.
- IV. Your facility has our permission to copy and distribute the criteria to your medical staff and hospital utilization management staff. **The criteria cannot be copied for sale or distribution outside your facility.** Additional copies may be ordered from AQAF at \$50.00 per copy.

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- V. The criteria document is provided in hard copy and compact disc, both of which are included with the Administrator's copy of this memorandum. In order to view the disc, you will need to use Adobe Acrobat, which is included. If you have questions or problems regarding the CD, please contact Jewel Riggins at (205) 970-1600 or 1-800-760-4550, extension 3123.

- VI. Questions concerning this memorandum or the criteria may be directed to Cynthia McIntosh, RN, (205) 970-1600 or 800-760-4550, extension 3506.

Enclosures

cc: AQAF Board of Directors; Donna Kyle, PO/DHHS; C. Kuhlman, MASA; M. Horsley, AlaHA—Montgomery; Frazer Rolen, AlaHABirmingham; L. Northcutt, BCBS; Fred Robertson, M.D., Cahaba GBA; Greg McKinney, MD, Cahaba GBA; Mary Woon, MoO., Mutual of Omaha; Hospital Contact; Hospital HIM Director.