

ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION
Medical Peer Review

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 93/96-22

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UTILIZATION REVIEW, QUALITY ASSURANCE, MEDICAL RECORDS
DEPARTMENTS**

**TO: ADMINISTRATORS AND CHIEFS OF STAFF
ALL ALABAMA HOSPITALS**

**FROM: H. Terrell Lindsey
President and Chief Executive Officer**

DATE: October 12, 1994

SUBJECT: Medicare Clinical Data Abstraction Centers

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- I. This General Memorandum provides information to providers on the recently awarded Clinical Data Abstraction Center (CDAC) contracts, and discusses changes in the PRO review program.
 - II. **Clinical Data Abstraction Centers.** The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has announced the contract award for two Clinical Data Abstraction Center contracts effective September 1, 1994. Under these contracts, the CDAC will be responsible for abstracting clinical data from Medicare inpatient medical records beginning January 1, 1995. Abstracted data will be utilized by PROs for pattern analysis and development of cooperative improvement projects with providers and practitioners to achieve the objectives of the Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP).

The two CDACs are Dyn/KeyPRO located in York, PA and Forensic Medical Advisory Service (FMAS) in Rockville, MD. Dyn/KeyPRO will abstract the medical records data from hospitals located in the Central United States, including Alabama hospitals. The enclosed CDAC newsletter includes a listing of states assigned to each CDAC, and discusses the role of the CDAC, the hospital and the PRO. AQAF will provide additional information to Alabama hospitals as information from HCFA becomes available.

- III. CDAC Process.** CDACs are to abstract clinical information from a state and national random sample of medical records using the Medicare Quality Indicator System (MQIS). A following General Memorandum will provide additional information on MQIS. Copies of medical records selected for review by HCFA will be requested from the hospital by the CDAC. The hospital will mail the record directly to the CDAC, and send the invoice for copy and postage costs to the PRO. The PRO will continue to reimburse hospitals for these costs. CDAC data will be forwarded to HCFA central office in Baltimore on a monthly basis.
- IV. Review Changes.** AQAF will continue to perform PRO Medicare review for mandated review categories and a smaller random sample. Abstraction of clinical data using the Uniform Clinical Data Set System (UCDSS) will change from a case review tool to MQIS and is scheduled to end on December 31, 1994. The CDAC will begin review for the Cooperative Cardiovascular Project (CCP), DRG validation, and the Medicare Current Beneficiary Sample (MCBS) on January 1, 1995.
- V. Marketing of Cooperative Cardiovascular Data.** We have been advised of several independent companies and individuals offering informational workshops and seminars related to the Cooperative Cardiovascular Project (CCP) and its data. Hospital personnel should be aware this information may be outdated and/or misleading and should consider the value of the information presented to the cost to attend the workshop/seminar. AQAF has previously provided state-wide data to all PPS hospitals along with their specific hospital data on CCP at no cost. None of the data has been provided to private entities.
- VI.** Please direct your questions or comments about these changes to Donnie Olis, R.N., Vice President of Review Operations; (205) 970-1600, or toll free 1-800-760-4550, extension 3201.

cc: Provider Contact; AQAF Board of Directors; Jennifer Barnett, R.N./FMQAI; Robert Turkel, M.D./FMQAI; J.M. Horsley/ALAHA; Lon Conner/MASA; Frazer Rolen/ALAHA-Birmingham; Jane M. Cottos/OIG-DHHS; David Simpton, MRB Branch Chief-Dallas Regional Office; Lynda Northcutt/BCBS