

ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 96/99-13

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

TO: Administrators and Chiefs of Staff of All Alabama Hospitals, Outpatient Departments, and Ambulatory Surgery Centers

FROM: H. Terrell Lindsey
President and Chief Executive Officer

Robert G. Sherrill, M.D.
Medical Director

DATE: January 6, 1999

SUBJECT: Revised Invasive Procedure Criteria

I. Purpose

This communication provides you with a copy of the new Invasive Procedure Criteria to replace that which was issued in 1989. The new criteria will be applied to Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation's (AQAF) review of Medicare cases involving invasive procedures effective Monday, March 1, 1999.

II. Summary

Following the initial review and modification by physician specialists, this criteria was circulated to all hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers in Alabama with requests for further modifications that might have been indicated. The enclosed criteria is the result of that effort.

A draft of this material was circulated to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) who indicated that AQAF is free to modify criteria as developed by Alabama physicians.

The criteria is provided on a diskette. Please use the instruction sheet included with the diskette to view and/or to print the criteria. The information and the appropriate specialty criteria should be distributed to your medical staff.

The screening criteria will be used by AQAF non-physician reviewers (Review Coordinators) to screen inpatient and outpatient procedures for medical necessity and appropriateness of the setting. Cases failing the initial screening will be referred to the physician advisor for a review decision. The attending physician and/or surgeon continue to have the opportunity to rebut any AQAF physician reviewer's adverse determination before a final decision is made.

General Memorandum No. 96/99-13

Page 2

This criteria is public criteria and may be copied and used as you wish. If you find areas that need to be reconsidered, please forward a report to Pat Burgess, R.N., and we will call a panel of physicians together periodically to review the criteria.

cc: AQAF Board of Directors, Cary Kuhlmann, MASA, J. Michael Horsley, AlaHA, Specialty Societies, County Medical Societies