

GENERAL MEMORANDUM 96/99-19

TO: Alabama Hospitals
Administrators, Quality Assurance and Utilization/Review Staff, Medical Records, Chief of Staff, Quality Assurance Chairman, Compliance Officer, and PPS Contact;
Health Maintenance Organizations
Medical Association for the State of Alabama

FROM: H.Terrell Lindsey
President and CEO

DATE: August 13, 1999

SUBJECT: Regional Seminars Presenting Statewide Medicare Activities for 1999 - 2001

I. Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP)

Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) was recently notified of its three-year renewal as Medicare's Peer Review Organization (PRO) for the state of Alabama. AQAF's new contract (sixth scope of work) with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) requires that quality improvement activities be expanded to hospitals and physicians statewide. The statewide Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP) will require participation by acute care hospitals and physicians in order to meet the specific goals defined for Alabama. The new program reflects a national effort by HCFA to improve the processes of health care and patient outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries.

II. Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP)

Alabama hospitals will be working with AQAF as part of a new initiative known as PEPP. This HCFA-directed effort is aimed at reducing the occurrence of payment errors as related to inpatient coding/billing and unnecessary admissions. The program will involve only acute care hospitals and will begin November 1, 1999. AQAF will work with state and federal agencies, Alabama hospitals and associations to identify areas with payment errors. AQAF will provide assistance to hospitals by examining the processes leading to payment errors and working with hospitals to prevent continued errors. PEPP does not include investigation for fraud and abuse.

III. Regional Seminars on HCQIP and PEPP - Registration

To provide additional details and materials important to each program's implementation, AQAF will hold regional seminars in 12 locations around the state beginning in September 1999. A draft agenda and a registration form listing the dates and sites for the seminars is attached. Registration is required in order to assure sufficient materials for participants. A fee of \$25 is requested to cover lunch and reference materials.

Please complete and return the registration form and fee for the seminars **by Friday, September 17, 1999.**

IV. Recommendations on who should attend.

The seminars are open to all interested persons. Hospitals should consider having the following staff attend:

HCQIP: Quality Assurance/Improvement, Quality Assurance Chairman, Chief of Staff, Medical Director

PEPP: Utilization/Review, Coding, Medical Records, Compliance Officer, Medical Director

V. For additional information, please contact the following AQAF staff at 1-800-760-4550 or in Birmingham, (205) 970-1600.

Seminar Coordinator: Marilyn Ireland, Administrative Secretary, ext. 3120

HCQIP: Nadine Schiesz, RN, Vice President, Quality Improvement & Communications, ext. 3104

PEPP: Pat Burgess, RN, Manager, Review Operations, ext. 3222

Regional Seminars

Health Care Quality Improvement Program
Payment Error Prevention Program

Sponsored by Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation
the Medicare Peer Review Organization

DRAFT AGENDA

Registration (Continental Breakfast) 8:30 am

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| I. | Welcome and Introductions | Bill Hawkins
Communications Director |
| II. | Overview of the 1999 - 2001 Medicare Peer Review Program | Nadine Schiesz, RN, Vice President
Quality Improvement & Communications
Pat Burgess, RN
Manager, Review Operations |
| III. | State-wide Quality Improvement Projects: Acute Care Hospitals | Richard Allman, MD
Principal Clinical Coordinator |
| | A. Acute Myocardial Infarction Project | |
| | B. Heart Failure | |

Lunch (provided)

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|------|---|--|
| III. | (Continued) | |
| | C. Stroke/TIA/Atrial Fibrillation | Richard Allman, MD
Principal Clinical Coordinator |
| | D. Pneumonia | |
| IV. | Intervention Strategies | Nancy Wright, Project Manager |
| | A. Guide to Alabama's Health Care Quality Improvement Program | Monique Sansom, RN, BSN |
| | B. Calendar of Activities | Project Manager |
| | - Data Collection | |
| | statewide and hospital specific | |
| | - AQAF Support | |
| | C. Approach to Quality Improvement | |
| V. | Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP) | Pat Burgess, RN
Manager Review Operations |

Adjourn 4:30 pm

Regional Seminars
Health Care Quality Improvement Program
Payment Error Prevention Program

Co-Sponsored by Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation and the Alabama Hospital Association

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration and fee should be mailed/faxed/phoned-in no later than **Friday, September 17, 1996**.
You may make as many copies of this registration form as you need.

Name _____ (RN, MD) Facility _____

Title _____ Phone _____ FAX _____

Address _____

Please check the location of the workshop you will attend:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuscaloosa
Tuesday, September 21, 1999
Bryant Conference Center
240 Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 36401
205-348-3001 | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenville
Friday, October 8, 1999
Hampton Inn Greenville
219 Interstate Plaza
Greenville, Alabama 36037
334-382-9631 | <input type="checkbox"/> Russellville
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
Windwood Inn
101 Highway 43 ByPass SE
Russellville, Alabama 35653
256-332-8920 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gadsden
Wednesday, September 22, 1999
Gadsden Country Club
1884 Rainbow Drive
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
256-546-0451 | <input type="checkbox"/> Montgomery
Tuesday, October 12, 1999
Embassy Suites Montgomery
300 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334-269-5055 | <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham
Friday, October 29, 1999
Sheraton Civic Center - Medical Forum
2010 Civic Center Boulevard
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
205-307-3015 or 324-5000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huntsville
Tuesday, October 5, 1999
Huntsville Marriott
5 Tranquility Base
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
256-830-2222 | <input type="checkbox"/> Auburn
Wednesday, October 13, 1999
Auburn University Hotel/Conference Ctr.
241 South College Street
Auburn, Alabama 36830
334-821-8200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dothan
Wednesday, November 3, 1999
Holiday Inn Dothan
2195 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, Alabama 36301
334-794-8711 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selma
Wednesday, October 6, 1999
St. James Hotel
1200 Water Avenue
Selma, Alabama 36701
334-872-3234 | <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham
Friday, October 15, 1999
Sheraton Civic Center - Medical Forum
2010 Civic Center Boulevard
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
205-307-3015 or 324-5000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile
Thursday, November 4, 1999
Adam's Mark
64 South Water Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
334-438-4000 |

Registration Fee: \$25.00
Includes Lunch and Work Materials
(All Fees - Per Day/Per Person)

Cancellation Policy:

Due to hotel meeting room policy, guarantees on food/room must be made three business days before the meeting.

Registration substitutions/replacements are accepted.
Registration fee will be returned if cancellation is three business days before the meeting.

If you need to change seminar locations after registration please do so three business days before the canceled meeting to avoid registration fee loss.

CEU credits will be available for nurses.

Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation is a provider of continuing education in nursing by authority of the Alabama Board of Nursing. Provider Number ABNP0273.

Please make check payable to AQAF and mail to:

Marilyn Ireland, Seminar Coordinator
Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation
One Perimeter Park South, Suite 200 North
Birmingham, Alabama 35243-2354
800-760-4550 205-970-1600 FAX 205-970-1624
alpro.mireland@sdps.org

If the registration form is sent separately from the check, please be sure to indicate participant's name(s) with the check to avoid confusion.