



## ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

Medical Quality Assurance

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One Perimeter Park South, Suite 200 North  
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### GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-02

#### For Immediate Distribution to UR/QA Departments and Medical Records Department

**TO:** Alabama Hospitals: Administrators and Chiefs of Staff  
Medicare HMOs and Medicare Fiscal Intermediary and Carrier

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

**DATE:** February 23, 2000

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

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- I. This Memorandum provides you with a copy of the newly revised screening criteria for Medicare patients admitted to short term and long term acute care hospitals in Alabama.
  - II. AQAF will begin using this criteria for cases reviewed after April 1, 2000. This revision replaces all previous criteria updates and revisions. Providers may begin using the criteria upon receipt.
  - III. The revised criteria was reviewed and updated by AQAF in cooperation with providers 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 and/or appropriate. It is not a guide to the physician in treating the patient and does not constitute a standard of medical practice.
  - IV. SI/IS Criteria is copyrighted and can only be recopied with permission from AQAF. Your facility has our permission to copy and distribute the criteria to your medical staff and hospital review staff. The criteria cannot be copied for sale or distribution outside the facility. A copy is attached for your use and information without charge. Additional copies may be ordered at \$50.00 per copy.
  - V. Questions concerning this memorandum or the criteria may be directed to Donnie V. Olis, BSN, Vice President-Review Operations, at 205-970-1600, extension 3201 or 1-800-760-4550, extension 3201.



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Attachment

CC: AQAF Board of Directors; F. Richards, MD, FMQAI; Sandy McMillan, PO/DHHS; M. Horsley, & Frazer Rolen, AlaHA; C. Kuhlman, MASA; OIG-DHHS; L. Northcutt, BCBS; T. Myler, MoO.