



ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

Medical Quality Assurance

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GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-06

TO: Alabama Hospitals: HCQIP Contact, with enclosure; Administrator, Chief of Staff, Utilization Review/Quality Assurance Department, Medical Records Department, PPS Contact, Compliance Officer.

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

DATE: April 5, 2000

SUBJECT: Health Care Quality Improvement Program Data Collection Tools

All Peer Review Organizations (PROs) are part of a national effort by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to improve the quality of health care for Medicare patients in the five inpatient clinical topics of: AMI, Atrial Fibrillation, Heart Failure, Pneumonia, and Stroke/TIA. Enclosed with this General Memorandum is a compact disk (CD-Rom), or hard copy for those hospital contacts not having CD-Rom capability, of the Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP) data collection software for all of the national clinical topics and related information described below. The enclosed software and related materials are being provided at no cost to your hospital.

The CD-Rom in the HCQIP Point of Contact mailing includes:

- Letter of Introduction;
- Medquest Version 7.2 User / Installation Instructions;
- Medquest Data Collection Software for the National HCQIP Clinical Topic Modules;
 - AMI,
 - Atrial Fibrillation,
 - Heart Failure,
 - Community-Acquired Pneumonia,
 - Stroke/TIA,
- Medquest Analyzer Software;
- Case Selection Criteria: ICD-9-CM Codes;
- Hardcopy Data Collection Tools;
- Hardcopy Clinical Helps;
- Hardcopy of Medquest Software Screens;
- AQAF Contact Information.



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Monitoring of improvement efforts by all acute care providers is vital to our mutual success in raising Alabama's quality indicator rates for each of the clinical topics. Monthly data collection is a crucial means of tracking your hospital's progress in these targeted clinical topics. In an effort to decrease the "time" burden of data collection, AQAF has abridged the national tools to contain only the information necessary to calculate the quality indicator rates related to each topic.

In order for AQAF to assess the results of quality improvement efforts across the state, reports from all providers are necessary. An AQAF report for each topic is automatically generated through the Medquest Analyzer software provided. **Reports should be printed and mailed or faxed to AQAF by the 5th of every month, with the first report expected June 5th.**

If you have any questions concerning this Memorandum, data collection tools, or other enclosed information please contact AQAF HCQIP Project Managers at 205-970-1600: Nancy Wright, Ext. 3433 or Monique Sansom, Ext. 3136. Questions can also be E-mailed to alpro.nwright@sdps.org or alpro.msansom@sdps.org.

Enc.

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