



## ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

Medical Quality Assurance

One Perimeter Park South, Suite 200 North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243-2354  
Telephone (205) 970-1600

WATTS 1-800-760-4550  
Administration FAX (205) 970-1616  
Medical Administration FAX (205) 970-1624

### GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-09

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

**FROM:** H.Terrell Lindsey  
President and CEO

**DATE:** August 7, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP)/Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP) Regional Workshops on statewide Medicare review activities for 1999-2002

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Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation's (AQAF's) Regional Workshops will feature two "tracks" running concurrently; the HCQIP track and the PEPP track. An agenda for each is enclosed. Please indicate on the registration form which track you and/or your staff will attend and the location. Workshop registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 am with both tracks starting promptly at 9:00 am. The programs will conclude at 1:00 pm.

#### **I. Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP)**

AQAF continues to work with providers, health care professionals and M+C Plans to improve patient quality of care as the Medicare Peer Review Organization (PRO) for the state of Alabama. AQAF's contract (Sixth Scope of Work) with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) requires PRO quality improvement activities involve hospitals and physicians on a statewide basis. This initiative 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 are working with AQAF as part of a second initiative known as PEPP.

This HCFA-directed effort is aimed at reducing the occurrence of payment errors related to inpatient coding/billing and unnecessary admissions. This program involves only acute care hospitals and began November 1, 1999. Our Regional Workshops will be a continuation of the AQAF PEPP educational effort. Baseline Payment Error Data and educational recommendations will be given to hospitals. Additional information concerning the Regional Workshops will be sent to the PEPP Hospital Point of Contact under separate cover.

### **III. Regional Workshops on HCQIP and PEPP - Registration**

To provide additional details and materials important to each program's on-going activities, AQAF will hold nine (9) Regional Workshops in locations around the state beginning in September 2000. A draft agenda and a registration form listing the dates and sites for the workshops is attached and on-line registration is also available on the AQAF website at [www.aqaf.com](http://www.aqaf.com). Registration is required in order to assure sufficient materials for participants will be available. A fee of \$20 is requested, to cover meeting room costs and refreshments.

Please complete and return the registration form and fee for the seminars **by Wednesday, September 13, 2000.**

### **IV. Recommendations on attendees**

Workshops are open to all interested persons with seating limited to 3 attendees per hospital per track. Hospitals should consider having the following staff attend:

**HCQIP:** Quality Assurance/Improvement staff, HCQIP Point of Contact.

**PEPP:** Utilization Review/Management, Coding, Medical Records, Compliance Officer, Billing/Business Office, Case Managers.

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

**Workshop Coordinator:** Marilyn Ireland, Administrative Secretary, Extension 3120

**HCQIP:** Pat Burgess, R.N., Vice President, Quality Improvement and Communications, Extension 3104

**PEPP:** Cynthia McIntosh, R.N., PEPP Manager, Extension 3506