

GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-11
For Immediate Distribution

TO: All Alabama PPS Acute Care Hospitals:
Administrators - with enclosure
Chiefs of Staff
Utilization Review/Quality Assurance Departments

FROM: H. Terrell Lindsey
President and Chief Executive Officer

DATE: March 15, 2001

SUBJECT: 2000 PPS Acute Care Hospital Medicare Paid Claims Data Profiles

Enclosed are your Hospital Specific Data Profiles developed from Medicare paid claims from Alabama acute care hospitals, for calendar year 2000 (approximately 95% complete). Paid claims data to produce these profiles is provided to Peer Review Organizations (PROs) by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) on a monthly basis. Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF), as the PRO for Alabama, utilizes this information to fulfill our contractual obligations for data analysis and in quality improvement projects. Data for speciality hospitals and PPS Exempt Units are not included in the profiles.

Lag time in processing claims submitted by hospitals to the Medicare Fiscal Intermediary and HCFA causes delays in AQAF not receiving more current and timely data for monthly profiling.

Hospital specific data profiles enclosed with this General Memorandum are considered to be **confidential**. Only your hospital's data, and aggregate data for the state of Alabama, to include hospital peer groups (as determined by HCFA), is included in the profiles for comparison purposes.

Distribution. We suggest Hospital Administrators provide copies of the enclosed profiles to Hospital Chiefs of Staff, and to the Utilization and Quality Improvement Staff as appropriate. These individuals should find the profiles of use in identifying areas for improvement.

Recommendation. AQAF recommends hospitals review the profiled data to identify:

- ? trends over time, and
- ? variances between peer groups and the state data.

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Comparison of average length of stay, readmission rates, mortality, etc., with peer groups and/or the state are important data for you to review. Comparisons may identify topics for further evaluation and interventions to improve quality of care, provide management direction, and possibly improve cost efficiency in patient care.

Should you identify topics specific to your hospital which you would like to discuss or explore further with our analysis, statistical, or clinical staff, please call us. AQAF staff who can assist you are Pat Burgess, RN, extension 3104, and Tony Horn, MS, extension 3231.

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