

PRO GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-13
For Immediate Distribution

TO: Alabama Hospitals
Administrators, Utilization/Review Staff, Directors of Nursing and Medical Records, Chief of Staff, Quality Assurance Chairman, Compliance Officer, PPS Contact, PEPP Contact; HCQIP Contact
Health Maintenance Organizations

FROM: Richard L. Zorn, CPA
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

DATE: August 15, 2001

SUBJECT: Fall Regional Workshops on Statewide Medicare Review Activities, 1999-2002 for the Health Care Quality Improvement Program (HCQIP), and Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP) and Case Review

To provide additional details and materials important to each program's on-going activities, AQAF will hold seven (7) Regional Workshops in locations around the state beginning in September 2001, on HCQIP, Mandatory Case review, and PEPP. A draft agenda is enclosed. Please indicate on the registration form the meeting location you and/or your staff would like to attend. Workshop registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8:00am.

I. Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP)

AQAF is continuing to work with Alabama hospitals in the PEPP initiative to reduce the occurrence of payment errors. PEPP began November 1, 1999, and involves acute care hospital inpatient admissions. Aggregate statewide PEPP data will be presented during the Regional Workshop to identify opportunities for hospital monitoring and education. The focus of this Regional Workshop for PEPP is Unnecessary Admissions, Observation, and Discharge Planning.

II. Case Review: Hospital Issued Notices of Non-Coverage (HINN)

Hospitals are authorized to issue HINNs and NODMARs (Notices of Discharge and Medicare Appeal Rights) when Medicare patients are admitted to the hospital without acute medical necessity. Continued-stay notices can be issued when patients no longer meet inpatient criteria during the patient's hospitalization. This presentation provides hands-on, practical information concerning HINN and NODMAR issuance and common pitfalls providers

General Memorandum 99/02-13
August 15, 2001

experience. HINN Guidebooks will be available at each regional meeting.

III. 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 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly HCFA, requires PRO quality improvement activities involve hospitals and physicians on a statewide basis. This initiative reflects a national effort by CMS to improve the processes of health care and patient outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries.

IV. Regional Workshops on HCQIP and PEPP - Registration

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. Pre-registration is **required** in order to assure sufficient materials and refreshments for participants. A fee of \$25 per person is requested, to cover meeting room costs and refreshments.

Please complete and return the registration form and fee for the seminars **by Friday, September 14, 2001.**

V. Attendee Recommendations

Workshops are open to all interested persons on a first come first served basis. Hospitals should consider having the following staff attend:

Quality Assurance/Improvement staff, Director of Nursing, HCQIP Point of Contact, PEPP Contact, Utilization Review/Management, Medical Records, Compliance Officer, Discharge Planners, Case Managers.

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

Workshop Coordinator: Patsy Armbrust, Administrative Secretary, Extension 3402.

cc: Provider contact person; AQAF Board of Directors; FMQAI; Region VI Project Officer, M. Horsley/ALAHA; C. Kuhlman/MASA; F. Rolen/ALAHA-B'ham; J.Cottos/OIG-DHHS; L. Northcutt/BCBS; HCQIP/PEPP Advisory Committee.

Regional Workshop HCQIP, PEPP, & CASE REVIEW

Sponsored by Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation
The Medicare Peer Review Organization

DRAFT AGENDA

8:00am – 8:30am	Registration (Continental Breakfast)	
	Welcome and Introductions	Bill Hawkins, Communications Director
8:30am – 11:30am	PEPP Update & Data Feedback	Hugh Hood, MD PEPP Project Director
	Admission & Observation	Cynthia McIntosh, RN PEPP Project Manager
	Hospital Issued Notice of Non-Coverage (HINN)	Lesia Knight, RN
	Discharge Planning	Linda Powell, RN
		Lesia Knight, RN
11:30am – 12:30pm	Working Lunch –“Changing Physician Behavior” (for PEPP & HCQIP)	Suzy Davies, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Dept Health Behavior UAB School of Public Health
12:30pm – 2:00 pm	Interactive Breakout Sessions	Pat Burgess, RN Vice President, Quality Improvement & Communications
2:00pm – 2:15pm	Break	
2:15pm – 3:00pm	Data	Richard M. Allman, M.D. HCQIP Director
3:00pm – 3:15pm	Interventional Updates	Pat Burgess, RN
3:15pm – 3:30pm	Evaluation/Adjourn	

Regional Workshops
Health Care Quality Improvement Program
Payment Error Prevention Program

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration should be mailed/faxed/phoned-in no later than **Friday, September 14, 2001**. Fee should be paid prior to the meeting and receipts will be mailed. You may also register on-line and find links to the various locations' web sites at www.aqaf.com. Please fill out a separate form for each attendee. You may make as many copies of this registration form as you need.

Name _____ Facility _____

Title _____ Phone _____ FAX _____

Complete Address _____

Email Address _____

Please check **ONE**:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 9 Birmingham
Tuesday, September 25, 2001
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, AL 35223
205-414-3900 or
www.bbgardens.org | 9 Gadsden
Thursday, October 11, 2001
Center for Cultural Arts
5 th & Broad Street
Gadsden, AL
256-543-2787 | 9 Birmingham
Wednesday, November 7, 2001
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, AL 35223
205-414-3900 or
www.bbgardens.org |
| 9 Dothan
Wednesday, October 3, 2001
Ramada Inn Dothan
3011 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36301
334-792-0031 | 9 Decatur
Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Country Inn & Suites
807 Bank Street NW
Decatur, AL
256-355-6800 | |
| 9 Mobile
Thursday, October 4, 2001
Adams Mark
64 South Water Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
334-438-4000 or
www.adamsmark.com | 9 Montgomery
Thursday, October 25, 2001
Embassy Suites Montgomery
300 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-269-5055 | |

Registration Fee: \$25.00
(All fees-Per Day/Per Person)

Cancellation Policy:

Due to hotel meeting room policy, guarantees on food/room must be made four business days before the meeting, therefore registration fees will be returned if cancellation is five business days before the meeting.

Registration substitutions/replacements are accepted. If you need to change workshop locations after registration please do so five business days before the canceled meeting to avoid loss of registration fee.

8.1 contact hours will be available for nurses attending the full day and others will receive a certificate of attendance. 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:
Patsy Armbrust, Workshop Coordinator
Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation
One Perimeter Park South, Suite 200 North
Birmingham, Alabama 35243-2354
800-760-4550; 205-970-1600 ext. 3402; FAX 205-970-1624
alpro.parmbrust@sdps.org

General Memorandum 99/02-13
August 15, 2001

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.