



ALABAMA QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION
Medical Quality Assurance

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PRO GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-14

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

TO: All Alabama Hospitals
(Memo only)
Administrators and Chiefs of Staff
Outpatient Departments
Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Medical Records Departments
Utilization Review Departments
Quality Improvement Departments

(CD and Memo)
PRO Contact Person

FROM: Robert G. Sherrill, M.D., Acting CEO
James F. DeLong, M.D., Medical Director

DATE: October 12, 2001

SUBJECT: Revised Medicare Invasive Procedure Criteria

This General Memorandum provides you with the newly revised **Invasive Procedure Criteria** for use in reviewing Medicare patients in the inpatient and outpatient settings.

This revision replaces previously issued procedure criteria and is effective with cases reviewed after December 1, 2001.

The revised criteria was reviewed and updated by physician specialists representing medical specialties throughout the state with final approval from the AQAF Board of Directors. It is a **screening tool** designed only for use by non-physician reviewers to identify procedures not appearing to be medically necessary or appropriate. **It is not a guide to the physician in treating the patient and does not constitute a standard of medical practice.**

The criteria document is provided on a compact disc. In order to view the disc, you will need to use Adobe Acrobat, which is included. If you have questions or problems regarding the disc,

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please contact Fisher Smith at 970-1600 or 1-800-760-4550, extension 3408. If you are unable to utilize the CD, you may request a hard copy version or diskette version.

Prior to the December implementation date, should you have recommendations for changes or additions, please contact Donnie Olis, BSN at 970-1600, ext. 3201.

These criteria are developed and maintained for use in screening Medicare patients **and can be copied for use within your facility only.** The criteria cannot be copied for sale or distribution outside your facility. Additional copies may be ordered at \$50.00 per manual.

Questions concerning this memorandum or the criteria may be directed to Donnie V. Olis, BSN, Vice President, Review Operations, (205) 970-1600, ext. 3201 or 1-800-760-4550, ext. 3201.

CC: AQAF Board of Directors; L. Malone, CEO/FMQAI; F.Richards, M.D./FMQAI; Sandy McMillan/ Region VI Project Officer; M.Horsley/ALAHA; C. Kuhlman/MASA; Frazer Rolen/ALAHA-B'ham; Lynda Northcutt/BCBS; Marijean Schindler/MoO