

GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-17

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

FROM: Henry W. Koehler
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: March 18, 2002

SUBJECT: 2001 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 2001 (approximately 95% complete). Paid claims data to produce these profiles is provided to Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a monthly basis. Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF), as the QIO for Alabama, utilizes this information to fulfill our contractual obligations for data analysis and quality improvement projects. Data for specialty 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 CMS causes delays in 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 CMS), are 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.

General Memorandum 99/02-17

March 18, 2002

Page 2

Comparison of average length of stay, readmission rates, mortality, etc., with peer groups and/or the state are important data for your review. Comparison information may help to 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 contact Bill deShazo, extension 3431 or Pat Burgess, extension 3104.

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