

**QIO GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-18**  
**For Immediate Distribution**

**TO:** Alabama Hospitals  
Administrators, Utilization/Review Staff, Directors of Nursing and Medical Records, Chief of Staff, Quality Assurance Chairman, Compliance Officer, Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP) Contact; Health Care Quality Improvement (HCQIP) Contact  
Health Maintenance Organizations

**FROM:** Henry W. Koehler  
Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** August 21, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Fall Regional Workshops on Statewide Medicare Review Activities for the HCQIP, HIPAA, Case Review, Hospital Payment Monitoring Program (HPMP) and Plans for the 7<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work.

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To provide additional details and materials important to each program's on-going and new contract activities, the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) will hold eight (8) Regional Workshops in locations around the state in October 2002. A draft agenda is enclosed. Please indicate on the registration form which meeting location you and/or your staff would like to attend. Registration must be received no later than 7 days prior to the meeting you plan to attend. **No on-site registration will be available.** Workshop sign-in and a continental breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m.

**I. HCQIP**

AQAF continues to work with providers, health care professionals and M+C Plans to improve patient quality of care as the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the state of Alabama. AQAF's contract (Seventh Scope of Work) with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly HCFA, requires QIO quality improvement activities involving hospitals, physicians, skilled nursing facilities and home health care 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.

**II. HIPAA**

An overview of HIPAA provisions will be presented, with emphasis on Privacy and Security regulations. Discussion will include the impact of HIPAA on information exchange between providers and AQAF, as well as policies/procedures that providers need to implement.

### **III. Case Review/Hospital Payment Monitoring Program (HPMP), (previously PEPP)**

Explanation and discussion of the redirection of the 6<sup>th</sup> SOW PEPP to the 7<sup>th</sup> SOW HPMP will describe continuation of chart review on select Clinical Data Abstraction Center (CDAC) abstracted records and analysis of data. A new approach to handling beneficiary complaints will be introduced, further emphasizing CMS's patient protection and patient safety initiatives.

### **IV. Regional Workshops - 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](http://www.aqaf.com). Pre-registration is **required** in order to assure sufficient materials and refreshments for participants.

**Registration must be received by seven (7) days prior to the meeting you plan to attend. There will be NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.**

### **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:

Administrators, Utilization/Review Staff, Directors of Nursing and Medical Records, Chief of Staff, Quality Assurance Chairman, Compliance Officer, PPS Contact, PEPP Contact; HCQIP Contact, Discharge Planners, Case Managers

**VI. For additional information**, please contact Workshop Coordinator, Patsy Armbrust, Administrative Secretary at 1-800-760-4550 or in Birmingham, (205) 970-1600, extension 3402.

**cc:** Provider contact person; AQAF Board of Directors; FMQAI; Region VI Project Officer, M. Horsley/ALAHA; Cary Kuhlmann/MASA; Frazer Rolen/ALAHA-B'ham; Carl Bocchicchio/OIG-DHHS; Lynda Northcutt/BCBS; HCQIP/PEPP Advisory Committee.

# Objectives

## HCQIP

- To update participants on results of 6<sup>th</sup> SOW activities.
- To inform participants of new work beginning November 1, 2002 through October 31, 2005.

## HIPPA

- To overview HIPPA provisions and its impact on participants.
- To inform participants of policies and procedures that providers need to implement.

## Case Review/HPMP

- To inform participants of the redirection of the PEPP Program to the HPMP Program.
- To inform participants of the new approach to handling beneficiary complaints.

# Speaker Biographies

## Pat Burgess, RN, BSN

Pat is the Vice-President of Quality Improvement & Communications at AQAF. She obtained her baccalaureate degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire in 1976 and is currently working on her Masters in Rural Case Management. After joining AQAF in 1990, she supervised Medicare review for in-house and field reviewers. She also served as the Review Manager and the PEPP Manager before assuming her current role.

## Hugh Hood, MD

Dr. Hood is Deputy Medical Director for AQAF. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and is in active practice in Bessemer, Alabama. Dr. Hood is a member of the American Medical Association, American College of Physicians, Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and serves as a Medical Consultant to Computer Sciences Corporation and as Medical Director for The Oath Health Plan. He is also the Director of the HPMP in Alabama.

## Joy King, RHIA, CCS

Joy received her B.S. degree in Medical Records Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1974 and obtained her CCS credentials in 1999. She served as Director of Medical Records at Cooper Green Hospital, Children's Hospital, and BMC-Princeton. Joy served as a consultant for the Tennessee Hospital Association from 1978-1979 and as a consultant for AQAF from 1985-1988. She has taught coding classes throughout the state of Alabama for the state Health Information Association and has held several offices in that association. Joy presently serves as a Coding Consultant to AQAF and Florida Medical Quality Assurance, Inc. where she oversees the Coders employed by AQAF, updates the Coding Manuals and teaches Coding Workshops in ICD-9-CM and CPT-4. She also performs on-site coding audits for physician offices.

## **Henry (Hank) W. Koehler**

Hank Koehler is the Chief Executive Officer AQAF. He graduated from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland in 1967 with a B.S. in Accounting and began his career as an Internal Revenue Agent. In 1979, he moved to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration), where he held a number of management positions. Mr. Koehler began working in the CMS Peer Review Organization (PRO) program in 1986, with management responsibility for budget, program evaluation and policy development. He left the PRO program in 1999 as Deputy Director of the Quality Improvement Group to take the position of Director of the Beneficiary Program Promotion and Assessment Group in CMS' Center for Beneficiary Choices. He retired from CMS in 2000 and served as the Senior Vice President for Federal Affairs for CMRI, the QIO for the State of California until January 2002.

## **Cynthia McIntosh, RN**

Cynthia is the HPMP Project Manager at AQAF. Cynthia graduated from Georgia Baptist School of Nursing in 1973 and has been with AQAF since 1991. Past experiences at AQAF have included Quality Improvement Projects, MQIS, Case Review, Quality and Pre-certification. She is the current President of the Alabama Association for Healthcare Quality, having previously served as Secretary and Program Team Leader.

## **Lee Wimberly, MD**

Dr. Wimberly is board-certified in General Internal Medicine. He works as a hospitalist at Baptist Medical Center-Montclair in Birmingham, AL. He serves as project director for the heart failure project and is a Physician Advisor for AQAF.

# Regional Workshop HCQIP, HPMP, & CASE REVIEW

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Sponsored by Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation  
The Medicare Quality Improvement Organization

## DRAFT AGENDA

|                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 9:00am – 10:00am   | Registration (Continental Breakfast)            |   |
|                    | Welcome and Introductions                       | Hank Koehler<br>Chief Executive Officer   |
| 10:00 am – 11:30am | HCQIP Update                                    | Lee Wimberly, M.D.<br>Assistant Clinical Coordinator                            |
|                    |   | Pat Burgess, RN, BSN<br>Vice President, Quality<br>Improvement & Communications |
| 11:30am – 12:30pm  | Working Lunch<br>HIPAA                          | Joy King, RHIA, CCS<br>Coding Consultant  |
| 12:30pm-1:45pm     | Case Review/Hospital Payment Monitoring Program | Hugh Hood, M.D.<br>Deputy Medical Director                                      |
|                    |   | Cynthia McIntosh, RN<br>HPMP Project Manager                                    |
| 1:45pm – 2:00pm    | Evaluation/Adjourn                              |   |

# *Regional Workshops* **Health Care Quality Improvement Program**

Sponsored by Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation

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## REGISTRATION FORM

Registration should be accepted no later than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting. You may also register on-line at [www.aqaf.com](http://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**:

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|---|---|---|
| 9 <b>Mobile</b><br><b>Wednesday, October 2, 2002</b><br>Mobile Infirmery<br>Auditorium<br>5 Mobile Infirmery Circle<br>Mobile, AL 36652                                   | 9 <b>Decatur</b><br><b>Thursday, October 10, 2002</b><br>Decatur General Hospital<br>Bluebird Room<br>1201 7 <sup>th</sup> Street SE<br>Decatur, AL 35609     | 9 <b>Clanton</b><br><b>Monday, October 21, 2002</b><br>Clanton Conference Center<br>2030 7 <sup>th</sup> Street South<br>Clanton, AL 35045            |
| 9 <b>Dothan</b><br><b>Thursday, October 3, 2002</b><br>Southeast Alabama Regional<br>Medical Center<br>Doctor's Bldg, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conf Room<br>Dothan, AL 36301 | 9 <b>Birmingham</b><br><b>Tuesday, October 15, 2002</b><br>Baptist Medical Center Princeton<br>Haynes Auditorium<br>733 Tuscaloosa Avenue<br>Birmingham, AL   | 9 <b>Birmingham</b><br><b>Wednesday, October 30, 2002</b><br>Bruno Conference Center<br>Auditorium<br>806 St. Vincent's Drive<br>Birmingham, AL 35205 |
| 9 <b>Tuscaloosa</b><br><b>Monday, October 7, 2002</b><br>DCH Regional Medical Center<br>Auditorium<br>809 University Blvd East<br>Tuscaloosa, AL 35401                    | 9 <b>Opelika</b><br><b>Thursday, October 17, 2002</b><br>East Alabama Medical Center<br>Health Resource Center<br>2000 Pepperell Parkway<br>Opelika, AL 36801 |   |

**No Registration Fee**  
**(ALL reservations must be made prior to meeting. There will be NO on-site registration.)**

**Cancellation Policy:**  
Due to meeting room policy guarantees, cancellations must be made seven business days before the meeting.

Registration substitutions/replacements are accepted.  
If you need to change workshop locations after registration please do so seven business days before the scheduled meeting.

**4.8 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 submit registration forms 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](mailto:alpro.parmbrust@sdps.org)