

**QIO GENERAL MEMORANDUM 99/02-
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
Skilled Nursing Facilities
Home Health Agencies
Psychiatric Facilities
Ambulatory Surgery Centers

FROM: Henry W. Koehler
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: September 16, 2002

SUBJECT: Updated Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) /Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services (CMS) Generic Quality Screens

This General Memorandum is to provide Alabama providers revised Generic Quality Screens used in screening charts for quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. These screens are updated by Alabama physicians for use by non-physician chart reviewers and do not represent a standard of medical practice for physicians. AQAF non-physician reviewers will utilize these screens when reviewing any Medicare chart for quality of care, effective November 1, 2002.

Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) are contracted by CMS to conduct quality improvement activities. Each QIO develops or adapts criteria for non-physician chart reviewer use in screening cases for potential quality of care concerns. Cases failing criteria are referred for local physician review.

The enclosed CD contains quality screens pertinent to various healthcare settings, including inpatient, hospital outpatient, ambulatory surgery, home health agency, skilled nursing facility, and psychiatry. Patient Safety indicators and national quality improvement indicators have been added to this revision. These screens are being added to AQAF's website – www.aqaf.com. This information can be requested on diskette if you are unable to use the CD version and can be copied and distributed to your review staff.

Questions regarding this memorandum may be addressed to Laura Rutledge, RN, 800-760-4550, extension 3429 or Pam Taylor, RN, extension 3512.

Enclosure: (Hospitals: CD is sent directly to the your PPS contact person)

cc: Provider contact person; AQAF Board of Directors; FMQAI; Region VI Project Officer, M. Horsley/ALAHHA; Cary Kuhlman/MASA; Frazer Rolen/ALAHHA-B'ham; Lynda Northcutt/BCBS; HCQIP/PEPP Advisory Committee.