

PCOM MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2003

Attendees:

Anita Antkowiak, CareFirst of MD; Kim Droboniku, CareFirst of MD; Valeri Ritter, CareFirst of MD; Jason Kerr, CareFirst of MD; Ella Glover, CareFirst of MD; Isabella Firth, Life Span; Traci Phillips Maryland Hospital Assoc.; Erma Brutscher, Johns Hopkins Health System and Larry Collier, HCR-ManorCare.

Anita Antkowiak, supervisor of Provider Education and Training, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Anita informed the group that our CMS Representative was not here because she was on vacation. Anita explained the purpose and expectations of the meeting. Members are expected to bring ideas to assist with the development of new training, providers are to take back information to their counterparts. It was also stressed that the purpose of the meeting is not to discuss individual claims issues. You can discuss them after the meeting. The entire group made introductions.

CMS Update- Anita advised the group that CMS is continuing to work on the TRI CARE update to HIQA. Erma Brutscher will provide an example to Kim Droboniku, apparently they are seeing some TriCare updates on HIQA.

FI Updates-

Provider specific conference calls and workshops (i.e.- ESRD, SNF, Hospital) will begin sometime in November. Providers will be able to send issues in prior to the call and also ask questions during the call. It will be an open forum, allowing the provider to express any issues they are having. Hopefully other providers will benefit from the shared information. Registration and questions will be able to be submitted on-line.

Provider Relations will begin one on one provider visits again. The provider representatives will be meeting with members of management, as well as the billing staff from each facility. Your provider representative will be contacting providers in the near future.

Our new training schedule for 2004 will be posted on our web site sometime in November. If your facility would like to host training, please contact your provider representative.

HIPAA conference calls will continue, please check our web site for the next scheduled conference call.

Jason Kerr provided handouts and explained how to sign up for the Medicare electronic mailing list.

Medicare Secondary Payer Audits will begin shortly. We are working at completing an audit on all of our hospitals.

Round Table Discussion-

Isabella Firth advised she would send to her SNF members, suggestion forms asking for Medicare issues to bring back to the group. She also let Anita know Life Span was willing to partner in training.

Erma Brutscher advised the group she would try to get issues from MHA to bring to the group. Erma also asked if temporary employees could attend training. Anita replied that was acceptable. Erma suggested training on ABN's at our workshop. Kim advised ABN training is included at the Admissions Workshop and the Advance Medicare Workshop. It was also suggested that hospital customer service representatives be included in Medicare training. Erma and Isabella suggested additional training would be needed once HIPAA became effective.

The date for the next meeting will be announced shortly.