

MEDICARE PART A

PROVIDER COMMUNICATION (PCOM) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ATTENDEES: Dell Forrester, Maryland General Hospital; Cindy Moore, Citizens Care Center; Kristi Pederson, Trans Healthcare; Kathleen Richardson, Anne Arundel Medical Center; Kim Droboniku, CareFirst of MD; Valeri Ritter, CareFirst of MD; Janice Austin, R.N., CareFirst of MD; Ella Glover, CareFirst of Maryland; Anita Antkowiak, CareFirst of MD; Conference Call Attendees: Rhonda Tucker, Johns Hopkins Health System; Randy Zimmerman, Johns Hopkins Health System; & Barbara Cerbone, CMS

Anita Antkowiak, Supervisor of Provider Relations and Training, welcomed all participants to the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting. A round table introduction was made.

CMS Update: Barbara Cerbone, our CMS Representative, who joined us via conference call also welcomed all participants. Barbara discussed the new Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2004 to the group and introduced the CMS Web Site for any questions (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicareform>). Barbara also discussed CMS's Open Door Conference Calls, where providers can call in and voice problems and/or concerns about Medicare Billing and Coverage Issues. A complete schedule can be obtained at www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/schedule.asp. Barbara reviewed the new Medicare HMO, Medicare Advantage Plan. A new preventive service benefit is available effective 2005, new beneficiaries are entitled to a one-time physical examination within six months of enrollment to Part B Coverage.

FI Updates: Valeri reviewed for the group CMS's new Medlearn Matter Web Site, which can be accessed through the Maryland Medicare's Web Site www.marylandmedicare.com. Anita discussed CMS's new Internet Manual Web Site effective 2003, which gives providers access to a complete Medicare Manual with sections for Coverage and Limitation per provider type. Valeri reviewed our List-serv enrollment where providers can view and copy CMS communications including provider bulletins updated information published by CMS. Kim reviewed our workshop agendas posted on our web site for 2004. She asked the group for any comments or suggestions. Many good suggestions were given which we plan to incorporate within our training agendas. Anita reviewed with the group our on-line registration for regularly scheduled workshops and conference calls held the day before each workshop. She also gave the group an update on the claims patient status reason codes and locator status.

Janice Austin, R.N. from our Medical Review area, reviewed the importance of providers returning ADR requests timely and solicited feedback on suggestions from the group regarding future training from the Medical Review area.

Round Table: Cindy Moore from Citizens Nursing Home expressed concern with providers who do not have access to the Internet to obtain Medicare News updates. Rhonda Tucker from John Hopkins Medical Center suggested adding HIQA/ELGA to our advance workshops and asked when providers should discontinue using HIQA and begin using ELGA solely. Providers were advised to continue using HIQA until further notice due to problems with information posted on ELGA. All members agreed we should readdress our training agenda to better meet the needs of our providers. Rhonda suggested we post our training schedules on the Urgent Message Box of our web site.

Our next Communication Meeting will be held on May 19, 2004.

GOOD MEETING – THANKS FOR JOINING US

