



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER
September 14, 2007	September 1, 2007	99-07-14

SUBJECT

Peer Review Committee

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Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin is to announce that the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) is establishing a Peer Review Committee (PRC).

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to the following individual providers enrolled in the MA Program to provide services to MA recipients:

- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Certified Registered Nurse Midwife
- Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)
- Chiropractor
- Dentist
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- Podiatrist
- Speech Therapist

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

BACKGROUND:

In its continuing efforts to improve the quality of care provided to MA recipients, the OMAP is establishing a PRC to perform medical peer review. The medical community has widely accepted peer review of providers as an essential component in encouraging high quality medical practice. Peer review is a process whereby members of the PRC review another provider's qualifications, adherence to accepted medical standards of care, medical outcomes and professional conduct in order to determine whether the reviewed provider may practice and, if so, to determine the parameters of the provider's practice.

DISCUSSION:

The Peer Review Committee:

The PRC, which is a confidential standing committee, serves in an advisory capacity to the Bureau of Fee-for-Service Programs (BFFSP) and is responsible for:

- assuring that the aforementioned individual providers seeking enrollment as MA Program providers have the necessary credentials based on solid professional and documentary evidence and that the individual providers are qualified to provide both safe and clinically sound services; and
- providing enhanced professional evaluation of the quality of care provided by MA enrolled providers to MA recipients based on generally accepted community standards of care.

The PRC will consist of seven permanent members, six of whom will be appointed by the Deputy Secretary of the OMAP. The seventh permanent member of the PRC will be the Chief Medical Officer of the OMAP. The Chief Medical Officer will act as the Chair of the PRC and will only vote to break ties. There will also be a nonvoting Executive Liaison Officer.

The permanent voting members will be selected from the following specialties:

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Psychiatry and/or Neurology
- Cardiology

The permanent voting members shall be licensed in their respective fields by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and actively practicing and participating in Pennsylvania's MA Program. They will be chosen based on specialty, board certification, experience treating MA recipients, number of years in practice and, at the discretion of the Deputy Secretary, state residency.

The Chair, at his or her discretion, may appoint to the PRC an Ad Hoc Voting member of a provider type or specialty which is the same as or similar to that of the provider referred for peer review to the PRC.

The Peer Review Committee Process:

Review of Credentials:

- The PRC will review the enrollment applications and related information of the providers who are referred to it by the Chair or the Chair's designee.
- The PRC may, in the future, review the credentials of providers who are already enrolled in the MA Program.

Other Reviews:

- The PRC will review the quality of care provided by or other concerns raised about providers who are referred to it by the Chair or the Chair's designee, either as a result of MA recipient complaints, Bureau of Program Integrity reviews or audits, quality improvement activities, or as a result of quality of care concerns identified by the OMAP staff.

The PRC will make a recommendation to the BFFSP, which can accept or reject the recommendation. Providers can appeal the actions of the BFFSP to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals in accordance with 55 Pa.Code, Chapter 41 relating to Medical Assistance Provider Appeal Procedures.