

SOW News

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Inquiring Case Management Minds Want to Know

Some Arizona hospitals have had success linking case management to improvement of hospital core measures. If your hospital works with case management to improve core measure results, we are interested in hearing more about your model. Contact Suzanne Powell (spowell@azqio.sdps.org) to share your model.

Reminders, Reminders, Reminders

This July issue of the *Scope of Work News* is completely devoted to reminders: things hospitals need to do and things HSAG needs to help hospitals do to successfully meet CMS requirements and expectations. Next month, *SOW News* will return to its normal news format.

Deficit Reduction Act Implementation

Provisions of the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act are due to be implemented on August 1, 2006. If you are not abstracting data for the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) quality measures SCIP-Inf 1, 2, and 3—beginning with January 1, 2006, discharges—contact Charlie Chapin. These quality measures are included in the proposed expanded measure set for the Annual Payment Update (APU). Not reporting this information can affect your organization's bottom line.

Updated Specifications Manual

To download the complete updated *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Quality Measures (Specifications Manual)*, or just a section, go to <http://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?cid=1141662756099&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier3&c=Page>. This manual is effective with July 1, 2006, discharges.

Hospital Workgroup (HoW) Meeting

The Hospital Workgroup meeting scheduled for July 13, 2006, has been cancelled.

Changes Within Your Organization

Per the CMS contract agreement, hospitals must provide Health Services Advisory Group with the names, titles, and e-mail addresses of the following personnel designated as points of contact:

(Continued on page 2)

- Administrator or CEO
- QIO Liaison
- Physician Chairperson of the Quality Assurance-Committee
- Medical Director/Chief Medical Officer/Chief of Staff.
- Chief Financial Officer
- Grievance or Beneficiary Complaint Coordinator

Hospitals are responsible for coordinating and communicating Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) issues between departments and must supply HSAG (the Medicare-contracted QIO for Arizona) with any changes to the above names and titles within 30 days of the change. This is important so that both HSAG and the hospital are assured that information is reaching the appropriate contact for a given subject area, as designated by the hospital Administrator or CEO.

If you have any questions or concerns about the designated points of contact within your organization, contact Suzette Gerhart at HSAG.

Application for an NPI

CMS requests that hospitals obtain their National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) before the May 23, 2007,

deadline to minimize claims errors and delays in payment. To apply for an NPI, visit <https://NPPES.cms.hhs.gov> or call 800.465.3203. For more information, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand>.

Premier’s Monthly Teleconference

The July teleconference, “Performance Pays: Proving High Quality Care Costs Less and Saves Lives” will be held on July 19, 2006, 2–3 p.m. EST. Premier will be interviewing Denise Remus, PhD, RN, Vice President, Clinical Informatics, Premier.

Objectives for the conference include:

- Analysis of cost and quality data from the Premier Perspective database.
- Insight from the CMS/Premier Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (Pay-for-Performance).
- Examples from pneumonia and heart bypass surgery with impact on avoidable deaths, complications, readmissions, and lengths of stay.
- Overview of national reimbursement changes for 2007–08.
- Implications of the findings for health care consumers and the nation’s health care system.

There is no charge to participate. Register online at <http://www.premierinc.com/advisorlive>.

HSAG Acute Care Team Contact Information		
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