



4/12 Deadline To Comment on AHRO Project To Develop Hospital Toolkit Intended To Guide Hospitals In Using AHRQ Quality Indicators

March 15, 2010

By Cynthia Marcotte Stamer

April 12, 2010 is the deadline for interested person to comment on the request by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for approval of its proposed “Development and Evaluation of AIIRQ's Quality Indicators Improvement Toolkit” information collection project.

AHRO's mission under 42 U.S.C. 299(b)(1)(F); 299a(a)(1) and (2) is to disseminate information and tools that can support improvement in quality and safety in the U.S. health care community. In furtherance of this mission, AHRQ already has developed sets of Quality Indicators (QIs) for use by AHRO and others to document quality and safety conditions at U.S. hospitals. These and other federally established quality standards are a key part of ongoing government efforts to promote quality and cost effectiveness in the U.S. medical system, as well as to tie reimbursement to the satisfaction of these or other government-adopted quality standards.

To encourage broader use and adoption of its QIs by hospitals and others, AHRO now is working on developing and evaluating a toolkit to help hospitals to effectively use AHRQ's QIs. The proposed AHRO toolkit would use two sets of QIs already developed and evaluated by AHRO:

- The Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs), which contain measures of volume, mortality, and utilization for common medical conditions and major surgical procedures; and
- The Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs), which are a set of measures to screen for potentially preventable adverse events that patients may experience during hospitalization.

The QIs and supportive documentation on how to work with them are posted on AHRQ's Web site [here](#). Many of the QIs have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum through its consensus review process.

To promote the appropriate use of these tools, AHRO plans to develop and then field test an alpha version of the Quality Indicators Improvement Toolkit with six hospitals. The currently open invitation to comment invites public comment on the proposed information collection efforts to be conducted as part of this phase of the project.

To review the pending request for comment for additional details or instructions on submitting comments, see [here](#).

For Assistance With This Opportunity Or Other Health Industry Concerns

If your organization needs advice or assistance with commenting on the AHRO proposal or to respond to other health care quality or other health care matters, consider contacting the author of this article, Curran Tomko Tarski LLP Partner Cynthia Marcotte Stamer at (214) 270-2402 or via e-mail [here](#).

Vice President of the North Texas Health Care Compliance Professionals Association, Past Chair of the ABA Health Law Section Managed Care & Insurance Section and the former Board Compliance Chair of the National Kidney Foundation of North Texas, Ms. Stamer has more than 22 years experience advising health industry clients about these and other matters. A popular lecturer and widely published author on health industry matters, Ms. Stamer advises hospitals and other health industry clients about responding to and using these and other quality measures and other related concerns. Ms. Stamer also publishes and speaks extensively on health and managed care industry quality, regulatory, reimbursement, and other operations, risk management and public policy concerns. Her insights on these and other related matters appear in the Health Care Compliance Association, Atlantic Information Service, Bureau of National Affairs, World At Work, The Wall Street Journal, Business Insurance, the Dallas Morning News, Modern Health Care, Managed Healthcare, Health Leaders, and a many other national and local publications. For additional information about Ms. Stamer, her experience, involvements, programs or publications, see [here](#).

Other Recent Developments & Resources

If you found this information of interest, you also may be interested in reviewing some of the following recent Updates available online by clicking on the article title:

- [NLRB Orders Union Elections In 31 California Health Care Facilities To Proceed](#)
- [IRS To Allow Medical Resident FICA Refund Claims](#)
- [Stamer Speaks To Chiefs of Staff About JCAHO Physician Performance Evaluation Requirements](#)
- [HIPAA Heats Up: HITECH Act Changes Take Effect & OCR Begins Posting Names, Other Details Of Unsecured PHI Breach Reports On Website](#)
- [HHS Delays 2010 HHS Federal Poverty Rate Update To March 1, 2010](#)
- [Rising Enforcement and Changing Rules Require Prompt Review & Update of Health Plan Privacy & Data Security Policies & Procedures](#)
- [Pfizer To Pay \\$2.3 Billion For Fraudulent Marketing In Largest DOJ Health Care Fraud Settlement](#)
- [Maximum Penalty For Patient Protection Act Confidentiality Breaches To Rise To \\$11,000](#)
- [HHS Delays 2010 HHS Federal Poverty Rate Update To March 1, 2010](#)
- [OIG Special Fraud Alert Targets DME Telemarketing](#)
- [Federal HEAT & Other Federal Health Care Fraud Efforts Score More Than 15 Successes As OIG Claims \\$20.97 Billion Saved From Enforcement Activities In December](#)
- [HEAT Initiative Snares Health Fraud Related Guilty Pleas of Physical Therapist, Money Launderer and Patient Recruiter In Detroit](#)
- [Medicare Paid Physicians More Than \\$92 Million in Incentives for 2008 Under the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative](#)
- [Renal Dialysis Facilities Encouraged to Review Current Protocols for Administering Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents](#)
- [CMS Publishes Updated FY 2010 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System Final Rule](#)
- [Retaliation For Filing HIPAA Complaint Recognized As Basis For State Retaliatory Discharge Claim](#)
- [Quest Diagnostics Inc. To Pay \\$688,000 In Overtime Back Wages Settlement After Misclassifying Systems Employees As Exempt](#)
- [Homecare Workers Exempt From FLSA](#)

For More Information

We hope that this information is useful to you. If you need assistance with auditing or defending these or other health care compliance, risk management, transaction or operation concerns, please contact the author of this update, Curran Tomko Tarski LLP Health Practice Group Chair, Cynthia Marcotte Stamer, at (214) 270-2402, cstamer@cttlegal.com, Edwin J. Tomko at (214) 270-1405 or another Curran Tomko Tarski LLP Partner of your choice. Ms. Stamer has extensive experience advising clients and writes and speaks extensively on these and other health industry and other internal controls and risk management matters.

You can review other recent health care and internal controls resources and additional information about the health industry and other experience of Ms. Stamer [here](#). If you or someone else you know would like to receive future updates about developments on these and other concerns, please be sure that we have your current contact information – including your preferred e-mail – by creating or updating your profile at [here](#) or e-mailing this information to cstamer@cttlegal.com.

If you or someone else you know would like to receive future updates about developments on these and other concerns, please be sure that we have your current contact information – including your preferred e-mail – by creating or updating your profile at [here](#) or e-mailing this information [here](#). To unsubscribe, e-mail [here](#).