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Governor

Alabama Medicaid Agency

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CAROL H. STECKEL, MPH
Commissioner

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Dear Patient 1st Primary Medical Providers (PMP):

Enclosed is your Patient 1st Provider Profile report. This report contains information on your Patient 1st panel for the period January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009. You will note the Profiler contains new fields including new performance measures implemented for the current waiver period. This letter will give you important information on understanding the Profiler and will also provide you with a list of the new performance measures.

As before, the Profiler will be sent out quarterly and will include information about those patients who were assigned to your panel during the specified period of time. Your total panel size is reflected in the top, right corner of the report. It is an unduplicated count which might appear exaggerated. This is because it accounts for every patient on your panel at any time during the year, even if assigned to your panel for only one month.

In addition, an adjustment for illness burden (Morbidity Index) between providers' patients within peer groups is done. This field is located in the top, right corner of the report and is an automatic process of the Profiler. Adjusted Clinical Grouping (ACG) weights designed by Johns Hopkins University are applied to claims data to determine the index. However, the enclosed report consists only of 3 months worth of claims data and is insufficient to generate a meaningful morbidity index. This will change as future Profilers are ran and claims history accrues.

Performance measures are listed on page four of the report. This information will keep you apprised of how your practice is meeting these measures. The current measures are: Generic Dispensing Rate, Office Visits per Unique Enrollee (Annualized), Average Number of Certified and Non-Certified Emergency Room Visits (Annualized), Admissions per 1000, EPSDT Screening Rate from 0-5 years, HbA1c Test Performance for Diabetic Patients, and Asthma Related Emergency Room Visits. You will also find an Influenza Immunization field under the Specific Service Characteristics which will track the administration of "Flu" vaccine for children and adults. The definition of these fields, as well as additional Profiler information, is available on the web at www.medicaid.alabama.gov.

Agency staff is available to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at (334) 242-5148 or email me at paige.clark@medicaid.alabama.gov. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the Patient 1st program.

Sincerely,

Y. Paige Clark, R.N.

Y. Paige Clark, R.N., B.S.N.
Program Manager, Patient 1st