

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

01-Feb-1996 05:19pm

TO: Jennifer L. Klein

FROM: Diana M. Fortuna
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: More on HEDIS in case you're interested fyi

NCQA: MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PERFORMANCE MEASURES RELEASED

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) released today the final version of the Medicaid Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS). Medicaid HEDIS is a set of performance measures for managed care plans serving the Medicaid population. It is an adaptation of NCQA's HEDIS 2.5, which is used by more than 330 health plans nationwide to "track and report" on the quality of their health care and services. HEDIS 2.5 is also the "core of most health plan 'report cards.'" NCQA Pres. Margaret O'Kane said, "The release of Medicaid HEDIS heralds an era in which all health plans, whether they serve privately or publicly insured members, will be held accountable for the quality of the care and service they deliver."

SPECIAL DELIVERY: Medicaid HEDIS will be distributed to state Medicaid agencies this week, and Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Director Bruce Vladeck said that his agency will "aggressively promote" use of the measurements. O'Kane said that Medicaid HEDIS "ensures that HCFA and state Medicaid agencies will have the tools they need to assist health plans in continuous improvement."

TARGET POPULATION: About three-quarters of current Medicaid managed care enrollees are pregnant women and children. The final version of Medicaid HEDIS incorporates measures specific to the needs of this population, and addresses "historic concerns" about quality and access for Medicaid recipients. NCQA notes that Medicaid HEDIS will enable governments to monitor Medicaid managed care plans, provide feedback to the plans themselves and "eventually" inform beneficiaries about the performances of competing plans.

TEAM EFFORT: NCQA worked with HCFA, the American Public Welfare Association, and a coalition of other private and public sector organizations to develop Medicaid HEDIS. The 25-member working group that developed Medicaid HEDIS consisted of state Medicaid directors, managed care administrators, physicians and Medicaid beneficiaries. Minnesota Medicaid Director/Medicaid HEDIS work group Chair Patricia MacTaggart said, "Medicaid HEDIS represents the interests and thinking not only of the diverse work group that drafted it, but of the hundreds of other

individuals and groups who took the time to review it and make recommendations" (NCQA release, 2/1).

===== ACCESS/QUALITY/COST =====

(c) The American Political Network, Inc.