

**Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board
Healthy Families Program**

Advisory Committee on Quality

Introduction

Since 1998, MRMIB has periodically convened a Quality Improvement Work Group (QIWG) to advise the Board on ways to monitor the quality of care provided by Healthy Families Program (HFP) participating health and dental plans. The last convening of the QIWG was in 2003 when the California HealthCare Foundation provided financial support to cover the administrative expenses of the Work Group. The Board heard recommendations from the QIWG at the September 24, 2003 Board meeting.

Proposed Advisory Committee on Quality

As we prepare for the next contracting period in 2010, staff would like to solicit input on quality measurement activities from experts outside of MRMIB. Within the next year, all HFP participating plans will be submitting encounter and claims data to MRMIB and it would be helpful to have the perspective of others in evaluating it and determining how to make the best use of the data.

In addition to reviewing encounter data, an Advisory Committee on Quality could help MRMIB evaluate other aspects of health care quality such as:

- Current state of health and plan quality measurement
- How to improve quality performance
- Which HEDIS® measures should be collected and reported
- Use of CAHPS, YAHCS data in evaluating quality performance
- Public reporting of plan quality performance

In 2003, QIWG members included health and dental plan representatives, health care quality researchers, Healthy Families Advisory Panel members, pediatricians and pediatric specialists (including mental health), dentists, clinic representatives, and advocates. Serving as ex-officio members at that time were Dr. Areta Crowell representing the Board, and a representative from the Medi-Cal Managed Care Division of DHCS. There were 22 members participating on the QIWG.

In addition to the participants listed above, staff recommends adding members from other state agencies such as the Departments of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and Mental Health (DMH) and individuals who have expertise in:

- Using encounter data to advance quality improvements
- Consumer-friendly public reporting of health plan quality data.

Staff proposes that MRMIB convene an Advisory Committee on Quality with the goal of having its first meeting in September 2008. Staff envisions that the Advisory Committee would meet bi-monthly and utilize smaller subcommittees in alternating months for planning and specific topics such as encounter data analysis or dental measures.

Since there is no new funding for this activity, MRMIB will have to absorb the administrative expenses. In 2003, those expenses, which included travel reimbursement for participants was approximately \$20,000. Staff will seek funding from outside sources to support this work; however, we would like to move forward on this whether or not outside funding is available.

Next Steps

1. Contact former Quality Workgroup members regarding their interest in serving on the Advisory Committee.
2. Send out nomination forms to invite additional participation.
3. Research potential of contracting with a consultant to help coordinate and facilitate the meetings.
4. Review and revise QIWG Charter as necessary.
5. Schedule first meeting for September 2008.