

does not meet recognized professional standards of care, or is not supported by the necessary documentation of care as required by the QIO.

Urban means a Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Executive Office of Management and Budget.

Vision care professional is a term limited to licensed doctors of medicine who limit their practice to ophthalmology and to doctors of optometry.

Subpart B—Sanctions Under the QIO Program; General Provisions

§ 1004.10 Statutory obligations of practitioners and other persons.

It is the obligation of any health care practitioner or other person who furnishes or orders health care services that may be reimbursed under the Medicare or State health care programs to ensure, to the extent of his or her or its authority, that those services are—

(a) Provided economically and only when, and to the extent, medically necessary;

(b) Of a quality that meets professionally recognized standards of health care; and

(c) Supported by evidence of medical necessity and quality in the form and fashion and at such time that the reviewing QIO may reasonably require (including copies of the necessary documentation and evidence of compliance with pre-admission or pre-procedure review requirements) to ensure that the practitioner or other person is meeting the obligations imposed by section 1156(a) of the Act.

§ 1004.20 Sanctions.

In addition to any other sanction provided under the law, a practitioner or other person may be—

(a) Excluded from participating in programs under titles V, XVIII, XIX, and XX of the Social Security Act for a period of no less than 1 year; or

(b) In lieu of exclusion and as a condition for continued participation in titles V, XVIII, XIX, and XX of the Act, if the violation involved the provision or ordering of health care services (or services furnished at the medical direction or on the prescription of a physician) that were medically improper or

unnecessary, required to pay an amount of up to \$10,000 for each instance in which improper or unnecessary services were furnished or ordered (or prescribed, if appropriate). The practitioner or other person will be required either to pay the monetary assessment within 6 months of the date of notice or have it deducted from any sums the Federal Government owes the practitioner or other person.

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Subpart C—QIO Responsibilities

§ 1004.30 Basic responsibilities.

(a) The QIO must use its authority or influence to enlist the support of other professional or government agencies to ensure that each practitioner or other person complies with the obligations specified in § 1004.10.

(b) When the QIO identifies situations where an obligation specified in § 1004.10 is violated, it will afford the practitioner or other person reasonable notice and opportunity for discussion and, if appropriate, a suggested method for correcting the situation and a time period for a corrective action in accordance with §§ 1004.40 and 1004.60.

(c) The QIO must submit a report to the OIG after the notice and opportunity provided under paragraph (b) of this section and, if appropriate, the opportunity to enter into and complete a corrective action plan (CAP) if the QIO finds that the practitioner or other person has—

(1) Failed substantially to comply with any obligation in a substantial number of admissions; or

(2) Grossly and flagrantly violated any obligation in one or more instances.

(d) The QIO report to the OIG must comply with the provisions of § 1004.80.

(e) If a practitioner or other person relocates to another QIO area prior to a finding of a violation or sanction recommendation, and the originating QIO—

(1) Is able to make a finding, the originating QIO must, as appropriate, close the case or forward a sanction recommendation to the OIG; or