

**§ 1004.40**

(2) Cannot make a finding, the originating QIO must forward all documentation regarding the case to the QIO with jurisdiction, and notify the practitioner or other person of this action.

(f) The QIO must deny payment for services or items furnished or ordered (or at the medical direction or on the prescription of an excluded physician) by an excluded practitioner or other person when the QIO identifies the services or items. It must report the findings to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

**§ 1004.40 Action on identification of a violation.**

When a QIO identifies a violation, it must—

(a) Indicate whether the violation is a gross and flagrant violation or is a substantial violation in a substantial number of cases; and

(b) Send the practitioner or other person written notice of the identification of a violation containing the following information—

(1) The obligation(s) involved;

(2) The situation, circumstances or activity that resulted in a violation;

(3) The authority and responsibility of the QIO to report violations of any obligation under section 1156(a) of the Act;

(4) A suggested method for correcting the situation and a time period for corrective action, if appropriate;

(5) The sanction that the QIO could recommend to the OIG;

(6) The right of the practitioner or other person to submit to the QIO within 30 days of receipt of the notice additional information or a written request for a meeting with the QIO to review and discuss the finding, or both. The date of receipt is presumed to be 5 days after the date on the notice, unless there is a reasonable showing to the contrary. The notice will also state that if a meeting is requested—

(i) It will be held within 30 days of receipt by the QIO of the request, but may be extended for good cause;

(ii) The practitioner or other person may have an attorney present; and

(iii) The attorney, if present, will be permitted to make opening and closing remarks, ask clarifying questions at

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the meeting and assist the practitioner or other person in presenting the testimony of expert witnesses who may appear on the practitioner's or other person's behalf; and

(7) A copy of the material used by the QIO in arriving at its finding except for QIO deliberations, as set forth in § 476.139 of this part.

**§ 1004.50 Meeting with a practitioner or other person.**

If the practitioner or other person requests a meeting with the QIO—

(a) The QIO panel that meets with the practitioner or other person must consist of a minimum of 3 physicians;

(b) No physician member of the QIO panel may be in direct economic competition with the practitioner or other person being considered for sanction;

(c) The QIO must ensure that no physician member of the QIO panel has a substantial bias for or against the practitioner or other person being considered for sanction;

(d) At least one member of the QIO panel meeting with the practitioner or other person should practice in a similar area, e.g., urban or rural, and at least one member of the panel must be in the same specialty (both requirements could be met by a single individual);

(e) If the practitioner or other person has an attorney present, that attorney will be permitted to make opening and closing remarks, ask clarifying questions and assist the practitioner or other person in presenting the testimony of expert witnesses who may appear on the practitioner's or other person's behalf;

(f) The physician who recommends to the QIO that a practitioner or other person be sanctioned may not vote on that recommendation at the meeting;

(g) The QIO may allow the practitioner or other person 5 working days after the meeting to provide the QIO additional relevant information that may affect its finding; and

(h) A verbatim record must be made of the meeting and must be made available to the practitioner or other person promptly.