

Discussion Guide for Cardiac Services Advisory Committee Meeting
March 4, 2015

1. How should impartiality for external review should be assured? Is there consensus on the idea that blinding cases is necessary?

2. What specific questions need to be answered by the external reviewer for PCI cases to address the appropriateness of PCI? MHCC staff proposes the following questions:
 - What is the estimated numerical percentage of stenosis, based on visual assessment of angiogram?
 - Is it appropriate to treat the lesion based on ACC/AHA guidelines?
 - Is it appropriate to treat the lesion based on the reviewer's judgment and understanding of good clinical care?
 - Was PCI successful? What are the right categories for defining this?
 - Were there complications, based on a review of the angiography, cardiac catheterization laboratory report, and the patient discharge summary?
 - Was alternative therapy to PCI considered? If yes, what therapy?
 - Is there documentation that treatment other than PCI was considered, such as cardiac surgery, in cases where it would definitely be appropriate to consider, based on ACC/AHA guidelines?

3. Is there a cost-effective way to address quality, in addition to appropriateness, as part of the external review of PCI cases? Is including the following question, as part of the external review, a reasonable approach?
 - Based on the information provided, do you have additional questions or comments regarding this case?

4. Should primary PCI cases, other than STEMI cases be externally reviewed too?

5. What data sources should be used for external review? Is the following list reasonable?
 - Angiogram
 - Medical History & Physical Exam
 - Laboratory Studies
 - Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Report
 - Cardiac Catheterization Lab Log Sheets for Patient
 - Discharge Summary

6. Should external review be required to be completed within three months of the end of the six-month review period? Does everyone need to be on the same schedule or one of two schedules?

7. What is reasonable to expect hospitals to submit annually or upon request with regard to its quality assurance activities, including internal peer review of cases and external review of cases? (This requirement for PCI programs is noted at the bottom of pages 39 and 47 of COMAR 10.24.17.)

8. Is it reasonable for MHCC to get a copy of the results of the random external review of five percent of cases?

9. Should documentation demonstrating that cases were randomly selected be required?

10. What should the review schedule be for Certificates of Ongoing Performance for PCI services and cardiac surgery services?