



Eileen Fleck -DHMH- <eileen.fleck@maryland.gov>

RE: follow-up question on presentation to CSAC

1 message

Julie Miller <jmmiller@jhmi.edu>
To: Eileen Fleck -DHMH- <eileen.fleck@maryland.gov>
Cc: Julie Miller <jmmiller@jhmi.edu>

Fri, May 8, 2015 at 3:29 PM

Dear Ms. Fleck-

Thank you for your extensive work on the original and revised document.

Please find attached just a few comments within the External Peer review section that we have made (Dr. Jeff Brinker and myself).

One question: it appears that hospitals that are primary PCI-only hospitals only may not have to participate in the external peer process (since they are supposed to only perform PCI in STEMI situations). I would advocate that an external review process could also benefit these hospitals as well, on many fronts, particularly whether the case was a STEMI, whether the PCI was appropriate—or whether surgery should have been considered (often times the infarct artery will re-perfusion in a STEMI before PCI, and the anatomy is more suitable for surgery). Guidelines for PCI in STEMI also are changing, so it becomes important for review for consistency with these professional guidelines. Moreover, the hospitals without an elective program are smaller and would not necessarily have the depth of resources to be able to discuss these cases during internal review. Finally, the guidelines for STEMI for Maryland have also evolved over the years, so it may be beneficial to help hospitals ensure compliance with these guidelines and have external review of documentation.

In addition to the comments contained within the above document: Under the section that describes the number of external peer reviewers, I would consider changes “one” into “at least one”. We use multiple reviewers of the same case for a multitude of reasons—especially to ensure quality and consistency. If there is disagreement on cases, we send it to an additional reviewer. We have found this a very robust and fair process.

Thank you again. Please feel free to contact me directly if I can answer any other questions regarding the comments in the document.

Have a nice weekend.

Regards-

Julie

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