MEQC

MEQC

Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control

MEQC

Training Objectives

Understand:

- Purpose of MEQC
- Types of reviews
- Your responsibilities
  - When receiving a request
  - When responding to a finding
  - After receiving the Individual Site Report

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What is MEQC?

- Purpose of MEQC
  - Monitor the accuracy and timeliness of Medicaid eligibility determinations to avoid inappropriate payments and client determination delays
  - Identify methods to reduce and prevent errors related to incorrect eligibility determinations
  - Identify misspent Federal Financial Participation (FFP) dollars related to incorrect eligibility determinations

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MEQC Authority

Federal Authority

- Social Security Act – Title 19
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 42 C.F.R. § 431.800 – 431.865

Federal Agency

- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the Federal agency that monitors MEQC

State Authority

- 10 C.C.R. 2505-10 Section 8.080 Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (Volume 8)

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Types of MEQC Reviews

- Traditional Review
  - Broad eligibility reviews of all medical categories
  - Sample size will be 550 active cases and 210 negative cases annually
  - 3% error rate or less, otherwise subject to disallowances
  - Population excluded from the review are: Foster care, SSI, SCHIP, or programs that are 100% federally funded

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Types of MEQC Reviews

- Pilot Projects (Colorado elected)
  - Dependent on proposed focus area and CMS approval
  - Sample size will fluctuate
  - Error rate is frozen and results will not be subject to any disallowance of Federal Financial Participation (FFP) as long as it was frozen at less then 3%
  - Population excluded from the review are: Foster care, SSI, SCHIP, or programs that are 100% federally funded

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Case Information

- Cases are randomly selected
- Types of Cases
  - Active case means an individual or family determined to be currently authorized as eligible for Medicaid by the agency
  - Negative case means an action that was taken to deny or otherwise dispose of a Medicaid application without a determination of eligibility or an action to deny, suspend, or terminate an individual or family

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MEQC Request from all Eligibility Sites

- Send application/RRR and all supporting documentation used to determine eligibility for the review period
  - **Initial request**: Ten working days
  - **Second request**: Five working days
  - **Third request**: Email to site director
- If the case cannot be located, a letter or email from the site director is required noting the inability to locate the case file

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What Happens after the Review?

- MEQC will give each eligibility site a report called an **Initial Finding Form** that lists the outcome for each case
- Two types of errors
  - Procedural: error in eligibility conditions which, if corrected, would not result in a difference in the amount of medical assistance paid
  - Eligibility: error exists when a beneficiary and/or case does not meet all elements of eligibility
- Errors are cited to the site, not the individual technician

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Response

- 100% response is required for **every** error
- Sites will have the following to respond
  - **Initial request**: Ten working days
  - **Second request**: Five working days
  - **Third request**: Email to site director
- If the site response is received after the due date, the error will stand as cited

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Rebuttal Process

- Eligibility sites can concur (agree), rebut (disagree), or ask for policy clarification for each error
  - **Concur**: a response is **still** required
    - Error(s) requested to be corrected, must be corrected
  - **Rebuttal:** send documentation to support the rebuttal or the error will stand as cited
  - **Policy clarification:** site must provide Federal or State regulations and/or applicable agency letters to be reconsidered (Note: Policy request should be made only if the interpretation of policy is in dispute)

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What's Next?

- MEQC has ten working days to respond to site rebuttals and ten working days to forward a policy clarification to the Eligibility unit at HCPF
  - Error will remain cited
  - Error can be reversed

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Reports

- MEQC will develop a final report with recommendations to CMS
  - A copy of the report will also be sent to the site director along with an Individual Site Report
- Eligibility sites must develop a corrective action plan based on the results reported on the Individual Site Report

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