

**Mutual of Omaha-Medicare
PCOM Advisory Group Minutes – Southeast Region**

September 6, 2006
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Members Present:

Janice Tait, Mutual of Omaha – Medicare – Clearwater Office
Marijean Schindler, Mutual of Omaha – Medicare – Atlanta Office
Kathy Maris, Mutual of Omaha – Medicare – Dallas Office
Aaron Burky, Tenet Health System
Tabatha Macallister, Tenet Health System
Rose Hall, Tenet Health System
Marjean Preda, Tenet Health System
Christine Castellucci, Tenet Health System
Laurie Holtsford, CHS
Patty Singewald, HQM
Regina Norton, HCA
Chris Rasmussen, HCA

Janice Tait facilitated the meeting and recorded the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Janice announced that Marijean is retiring on September 22, 2006. Also, the Dallas Office will close on September 22 so Kathy will be leaving the company. Both Marijean and Kathy will be greatly missed and we all wish them well.

Janice told the members that, beginning October 1, 2006, the Provider Communications Department would have a new name, which is Provider Outreach and Education (POE).

Janice reminded the members that the main purpose of the PCOM Advisory Group is to recommend training topics for future seminars. Mutual Medicare solicits input from the Group and that input can drive educational activities such as "Ask the Contractor" teleconferences, Workshops, and Computer Based Training (CBT). Janice requested that all members review our CBTs on a regular basis and suggested that the CBTs be used to train staff that is new to Medicare.

Janice asked for recommendations for future training and Tabatha recommended education on all issues related to "Pre-Entitlement" including, but not limited to, Large Group Health Plans and Outliers.

Education on the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and the new UB-04 will be provided via "Ask the Contractor" teleconferences in September and October. The time-line for use of the NPI and UB-04 was discussed.

The next topic was the 9-day Payment Hold from 09/22/06-09/30/06. Payment will resume on 10/02/06. The payment hold is a requirement of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) and is a Federal Law signed by President Bush on February 5, 2006. Neither CMS nor the Contractors can change the terms of the DRA.

A discussion ensued regarding the National PCOM Advisory Group Meeting that was held in February, 2006 in Las Vegas. Those members who attended commented that the meeting provided an opportunity for providers to network as well as providers and Medicare staff to interact, communicate and present issues that are vital to the provider community. One member stated the meeting in Las Vegas was outstanding and those who attended recommended 2 full-day meetings. Another member praised the handouts that were distributed during the meeting. The Group agreed that Las Vegas is the best place to hold the next National PCOM (POE) Advisory Group Meeting.

Laurie asked if an NPI Directory would be available on the web, similar to the UPINs currently accessible on the web. So far, there has been no announcement that NPIs will be placed on the web but, hopefully, they will be at some time in the future. Should that occur, an EML will be generated to everyone who is registered for it and would also be placed under the "What's New" section on our website, www.mutualmedicare.com

Janice asked members to regularly check our website for Provider Educational events. All workshops and ACT Teleconferences are posted under the Provider Education page. Providers are invited to any and all educational events, regardless of the venue. Providers are reminded that they are not limited by their geographical location. A nominal fee is charged for workshops but teleconferences are always free of charge. Marijean requested that, when providers want to attend a workshop, they register on the web and then print the Payment Form and send it to the address on the Payment Form with their check. We have experienced numerous instances where a payment is received for the workshop and no web registration was completed and visa-versa. It is vital that both the registration is completed on-line and the payment sent in using the Payment Form. Field Representatives need accurate information regarding the number of attendees and the only way to obtain it is for the provider to register on the web **and** make payment. We ask that providers separate their workshop payments from any other payments they are making to Mutual Medicare, such as payment for Electronic Claims. We do not accept credit cards and we don't use Pay Pal. We accept checks and money orders. If anyone has any questions on registering and/or paying for a workshop, they should call the Field Representative sponsoring the workshop for assistance.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, December 6, 2006 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST.

Submitted by Janice Tait September 15, 2006.