



Peer Review – Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Q: How many cases would I expect?**
A: Cases are not predictable; therefore, CIMRO does not provide a guaranteed number of cases to our peer reviewers (PRs), nor do we require a certain number of cases be performed. Our PRs always have the right to turn down a case.
- 2. Q: Do I have to be engaged in active practice a certain number of hours to become a subcontractor with CIMRO?**
A: PRs generally must be engaged in active practice (teaching medicine and/or practicing direct patient care for at least eight hours per month) and have active admitting privileges in at least one hospital, if applicable. Some specialists, such as emergency medicine physicians, pathologists, radiologists, and anesthesiologists, may be actively practicing and on staff at a facility but may not have admitting privileges.
- 3. Q: Are your rates negotiable?**
A: We are always willing to negotiate rates; however, not typically on a per-case basis. Most of our peer reviewers are paid \$100 per hour and provide CIMRO with the number of minutes or hours spent on a case. CIMRO typically reimburses the reviewer within 30 days following receipt of the reimbursement log.
- 4. Q: What types of cases do you get?**
A: Most of our cases are reviewed for quality of care issues (e.g. cases with poor outcomes), credentialing reviews, or focused reviews. We also receive cases for external state health plan appeals.
- 5. Q: What is the turnaround time?**
A: For most standard reviews, we typically allow our peer reviewers two weeks to process a review. We may be able to negotiate with our clients depending on your availability. We inform our PRs of the turnaround time with each case, and the PR can accept or refuse the review.
- 6. Q: How are Peer Reviewers protected?**
A: The Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (HCQIA) provides good-faith immunity from state and federal liability for people participating in the peer review process. CIMRO's contracts specifically address the fact that our PR decisions are considered part of internal quality improvement processes, which further affirms the protections afforded under HCQIA. CIMRO maintains a professional liability policy, which extends coverage to peer reviewers performing services for CIMRO. The Errors & Omissions policy has limits of \$4 million per claim and \$4 million in aggregate.
- 7. Q: What is a fair hearing?**
A- A fair hearing is an administrative hearing or a private medical review hearing conducted by hospital medical staff to resolve issues involved with a physician's clinical privileges and medical staff membership. In some cases, a provider's privileges are restricted or revoked as a result of the hearing. The fair hearing process follows the hospital's bylaws and is protected by the HCQIA. During a fair hearing, a PR is responsible for answering questions related to his/her clinical review of the cases, discuss what his/her findings were, and provide the rationale for his/her determination. There is generally no dialogue between the physician under review and the CIMRO PR; all questions are typically posed by the hospital's attorney, the involved physician's attorney, and the hearing panel.