

Peer Reviewer Monitoring: Guidelines for an Excellent Peer Review

CIMRO's commitment to excellence requires us to be surrounded by peer reviewers (PRs) who provide a high-quality review. Each PR's first two reviews for CIMRO are monitored (evaluated by CIMRO's medical director), and reviews are monitored periodically thereafter. Additionally, a case might be monitored if a review fails to meet CIMRO's quality criteria. Reviews are evaluated by answering the following:

- Were all applicable sections of the worksheet completed?
- Was clarification required by CIMRO staff?
- Was there adequate, evidence-based rationale (with references, whenever possible) to support each determination?
- Was the documentation accurate, professional, supportive and educational?
- If the report was handwritten, was the PR's handwriting legible?
- Was the time spent in review reasonable?

Recommendations for a quality review include making certain all reviews:

- Are typed. This isn't required, but it is preferred.
- Are succinct.
- Avoid determinations based on presumptions.
- Include current (within five years), scholarly or peer-reviewed, evidence-based references. "Standard textbook" references are acceptable if the issue is a basic management concern that seems to violate core treatment principles.

Additional tips for an excellent review:

- Be mindful of who the client is (usually a hospital quality committee) and how they might use the review.
- Consider providing counsel on how the hospital might approach the issue from a systems standpoint to prevent the same concerns from arising in the future.
- Avoid making recommendations regarding disciplinary action related to the provider under review.
- Contact CIMRO staff for clarification when needed. If documentation is lacking, contact CIMRO prior to submitting the review. CIMRO can then obtain the needed information or confirm with the client that the documentation is not available.