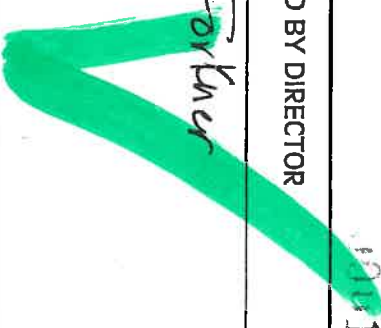


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>10-20-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100184</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Ms. Fortner</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

RECEIVED

OCT 20 2009



Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

■ 1000 Center Point Road | Columbia, SC 29210-5802 | Ph. 803.796.3080 | www.schha.org

October 19, 2009

Emma Forkner, Director
SC DHHS
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Emma:

I am writing on behalf of South Carolina's hospitals to express our support of The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME) as the next QIO for the Medicaid contract. Our state's hospitals have expressed to us their strong support of CCME because of CCME's leadership in improving the quality of care for the citizens of our state. CCME is a proven leader in the world of hospital review and the educational efforts necessary for quality hospital services.

SCHHA surveyed the member hospitals and received 53 total responses, all affirmative for the endorsement of CCME as the next QIO for the Medicaid contract. There were many positive comments from hospital representatives in the areas of education, clinical assistance and timeliness.

SC hospitals have benefited from many CCME-led initiatives for the Medicare population and SCHHA has been a very willing partner and co-sponsor in these efforts. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with SC DHHS and CCME on some of these same projects for the Medicaid population:

- Communities of Practice – local networks for sharing best practices, knowledge, tools and resources;
- Small and Rural Hospital Regional Meetings – Networking sessions held at volunteer facilities for special sharing with like peers of information related to quality, safety, coding and billing;
- Public Reporting Initiatives – assistance with the process of public reporting of Medicare's quality measure and with reporting of state reporting requirements; and
- Quality Symposiums – a biannual, statewide event that showcases hospitals successes in the ever-expanding quality improvement efforts.

CCME is committed to working with hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients in the Palmetto State. As a result, SCHA is proud to be associated with this organization and we endorse CCME as the next dedicated Medicaid QIO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Kirby", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Thornton Kirby, FACHE
President & CEO