

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Singleton</i>	DATE <i>2-17-15</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000185</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleared 3/12/15, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2-26-15</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input 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.			

## Brenda James

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**From:** Cynthia Gore  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015 9:46 AM  
**To:** Brenda James  
**Subject:** FW: Action Requested: EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle

Hi Brenda,  
Please log this. Thanks

**Cynthia Gore**  
*Executive Assistant II*  
[Cynthia.Gore@scdhhs.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Gore@scdhhs.gov)  
803.898.3202  
1801 Main Street, 11th Floor  
Columbia, South Carolina - 29201  
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**From:** Bryan Amick  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2015 4:11 PM  
**To:** Deirdra Singleton; Nathaniel J. Patterson, DrPH; Stephen Boucher  
**Cc:** Cynthia Gore; Courtney Sanders; Jan Polatty  
**Subject:** RE: Action Requested: EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle

Yep, let's log to Bradford.

**From:** Deirdra Singleton  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2015 3:59 PM  
**To:** Nathaniel J. Patterson, DrPH; Stephen Boucher; Bryan Amick  
**Cc:** Cynthia Gore; Courtney Sanders; Jan Polatty  
**Subject:** FW: Action Requested: EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle

Bryan,  
See attached. Do you/Jim handle EQRO?. Do I need to have Cynthia log?

**Deirdra Singleton**  
*Deputy Director*



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**From:** CMS Managed Care Quality TA [<mailto:ManagedCareQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2015 3:50 PM

**To:** Amiee Moore; Barbara Lantz; Becky Brownlee; Beverly Hardy-Decuir; Brandy J Spaulding; Camille Harding; Carol Stanley; Cecelia Davis; Cissy Johnson; Debbie Morales; Deborah Florio; Deirdra Singleton; Diane Poole; Dr. Janice Carson; Elizabeth Matney; Elizabeth Phelps; Ellen Costilla; Glyne Williams; Heather Leschinsky; Jacqueline Matson; Jodi Hulm; John Whaley; Judy Baker; Judy Womack; Kara Miller; Kathleen Dunn; Kim Elliott; Laura Ray; Lisa Truitt; Lisa Welch; Malalah Wagner; Melanie Bush; Michelle Maher; Monchel Pridget; Monica Kwasnik; Natalie Angel; Pamela Beatty; Patti Bazin; Robert Lloyd; Sarah C Brooks; Sharon Jones; Shawn Skaflestad; Sheri Sadala; Susan Burns; Susan M Eggen; Teresa Smith; Terri Costanzo; Texas Medicaid Waiver; Tracey L Robichaud; Valerie J Harr; Vickie Trout; Wanda Gutierrez; Wendy Smith; Yamilca Ortiz; Yolanda Williams

**Cc:** Allen, Richard C. (CMS/CMCHO); Brooks, Bill D. (CMS/CMCHO); Glaze, Jackie L. (CMS/CMCHO); Johnson, Verlon (CMS/CMCHO); Lee, Hye Sun (CMS/CMCHO); Mccullough, Francis T. (CMS/CMCHO); McGreal, Richard R. (CMS/CMCHO); Melendez, Michael (CMS/CMCHO); Schneider, Frank A. (CMS/CMCHO); Scott, James G. (CMS/CMCHO); Freund, Alan F. (CMS/CMCHO); Christian Soura; Chuck Lehman (MD Acting) ; Claudia Schlosberg (DC Acting) ; Clyde Reese (GA-Acting) ; Courtney Miller (NE- Acting) ; Cyndi Beane (Acting WV) ; Cynthia Jones (VA); Darin Gordon (Tennessee); David Dzielak (MS); Deidre Gifford (RI); Dr. Robin Cummings ; Gretchen Hammer (CO); Jason Helgersen (New York); Jeanne Larsen (NE-Acting) ; Jim Parker (Acting IL); Joe Moser (IN); Joe Parker (MO); John McCarthy (OH); Judy Mohr-Peterson (OR) ; Julie Lovelady (IA Acting) ; Justin Senior- Acting Deputy Secretary (FL); Kay Ghahremani (TX); Kenneth Fink, M.D. (Hawaii); Kristin Thorn (MA); Laurie Squartsoff (NV); Lawrence Kissner (KY); Leesa Allen (PA); Lisa Hettinger (ID) ; Maggie Anderson (ND); Marie Zimmerman (MN); Mark Larson (VT) ; Marlia Mattke (WI- Acting) ; Maryanne Lindeblad (WA); Michael Hales (UT); Nancy Smith-Leslie (Acting-NM) ; Ricardo Colon Padilla (PR); Ruth Vineyard (NE Acting); Ruth Kennedy (LA); Stephen Fitton (MI); Stephen Groff (Delaware); Susan Mosier - Medicaid Director (Kansas); Toby Douglas (California); Tom Betlach (AZ)

**Subject:** Action Requested: EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle

Dear State Official,

CMS is currently collecting state External Quality Review (EQR) technical report(s) for review and inclusion in the Annual Reports on the Quality of Care for Children in Medicaid and CHIP and Quality of Care for Adults in Medicaid. While states have previously submitted these reports to the Regional Offices, CMS now requests that each state conducting EQR submit all of their EQR technical reports to our technical assistance mailbox, at:

[ManagedCareQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ManagedCareQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov). In doing so, we ask that you copy the appropriate Regional Office State Plan Amendment mailbox to ensure the Regional Office also receives a copy of these reports.

If you have already submitted your state's current EQR technical report(s) to a CMS Regional Office, another CMS mailbox, or through CARTS, we request you still submit it through our TA mailbox. If your state posts any current EQR technical reports online, please include the link to those reports with your email submission.

States should submit any EQR technical reports that meet the following criteria:

- Reports finalized since May 1, 2014 (referred to by CMS as the 2014-2015 reporting cycle);
- Aggregate reports on the quality of care covering performance improvement projects (PIPs), performance measurement validation, and a review of health plan compliance with standards for quality, access and timeliness;
- Individual health plan reports, produced by the external quality review organization, covering any EQR-related activity;
- Reports covering one or more of the eight EQR activities (e.g., PIP specific reports or encounter data validation reports).

We request submission of your EQR technical reports by April 30, 2015. Due to the extensive work required to abstract data and summarize findings, CMS is unlikely to include any reports submitted after April 30<sup>th</sup> in the annual Secretary reports. As in prior years, if your state is unable to submit by April 30<sup>th</sup>, CMS will place a footnote indicating that your state's EQR technical report was not available in time for inclusion in the analysis. We encourage states to review the 2014 annual Secretary reports at the following links:

- [2014 Annual Report on the Quality of Care for Children in Medicaid and CHIP](#)
- [2014 Annual Report on the Quality of Health Care for Adults Enrolled in Medicaid](#)

Please respond to this email with any questions.

Thank you,

The CMS Managed Care Quality TA Team

March 12, 2015

To: CMS Managed Care Quality TA [ManagedCareQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ManagedCareQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov)  
Drake, Maria (CMS/CMCHO) [Maria.Drake@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Maria.Drake@cms.hhs.gov)

Re: EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is in receipt of your e-mail regarding the collection of our state External Quality Review (EQR) technical report(s) for CMS review and inclusion in the Annual Reports on the Quality of Care for Children in Medicaid and CHIP and Quality of Care for Adults in Medicaid. Our EQRs are performed by our contracted Quality Reviewer, The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME).

South Carolina is submitting our information to CMS now, prior to the April 30, 2015 deadline; however, it is important to note that in 2013, South Carolina requested and was granted an extension on our EQRs as a result of our State Plan Amendment, which allowed us to convert our Medicaid Home Networks to Managed Care Organization (MCO) model.

Attached are the reports CCME completed since May 2014. The only 2 EQRs we have to report is for WellCare and Absolute Total Care (ATC). SC Solutions' EQR was initiated and then postponed at their request, and they were subsequently purchased by Molina.

Please note our reporting cycle is not on the same calendar cycle as CMS', so I have included that information for you.

Below is CCME's EQR Schedule for the previous reporting cycle: (The highlighted area indicates the completed items for this current reporting cycle).

	Date Initiated	Final Report Submitted
Advicare (Readiness Rept.)	5/13/2013	7/26/2013
BlueChoice	7/26/2013	11/26/2013
Molina (Readiness Rept.)	8/5/2013	9/17/2013
Select Health	11/18/2013	2/28/2014
SC Solutions	8/28/2014	Review Postponed at the Request of SC Solutions
WellCare (EQR)	9/29/2014	12/17/2014
Absolute Total Care (EQR)	11/3/2014	2/5/2015



CMS Managed Care Quality TA  
Drake, Maria (CMS/CMCHO)  
March 10, 2015  
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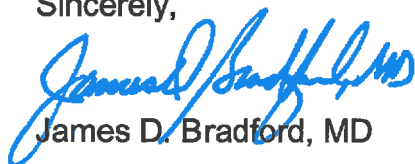
For information, the CCME's remaining EQR (Tentative) Schedule for the 2014-2015 reporting cycle is as follows:

Health Plan	Scheduled Conference Call	Tentative On-Site Visit
Advicare	Week of 1/12/2015	3/4/2015 - 3/6/2015
Molina	Week of 2/23/2015	4/22/2015 - 4/24/2015
BlueChoice	Week of 4/13/2015	5/27/2015 - 5/29/2015
Select Health	Week of 5/4/2015	6/17/2015 - 6/19/2015

These schedules may change to accommodate the health plans; but for the most part we closely follow this timeline.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Should you have any questions regarding our EQRs, please contact me, James D. Bradford, directly at (803) 898-2567 or by e-mail at [Bradfdj@scdhhs.gov](mailto:Bradfdj@scdhhs.gov).

Sincerely,



James D. Bradford, MD

Enclosures: (Attached)

## Brenda James

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**From:** James Bradford  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 11:05 AM  
**To:** ManagedCareQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov; Maria.Drake@cms.hhs.gov  
**Cc:** Deirdra Singleton; Bryan Kost; Cynthia Gore; Brenda James; Bryan Amick; Alissa Robinson  
**Subject:** South Carolina's EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle  
**Attachments:** CMS EQR Technical Reports for 2015.doc; SCEQR\_ATCFinalReport2015.pdf; SCEQR\_WellCareFinalReport2014.pdf

Attached is a letter explaining South Carolina's EQR Technical Reports for the 2014-2015 Reporting Cycle, along with the two (2) completed reports for the current reporting cycle. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any additional questions.

### James Bradford, MD

Senior Consultant

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Letter attached, but the response of 224 page in e-mail from Jim Bradford, dated 3/12/15 - 11:05 AM