

Independent Review Organization Services

Parente Randolph reviews are conducted in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Our staff of Certified Public Accountants, Certified Fraud Examiners and certified coding and documentation specialists are equipped to provide the technically specialized analysis necessary to accomplish the task.

We work with facility staff to understand the unique needs of each entity.

Independent review organization services may include any or all of the following:

- Comprehensive review of the facility compliance program.
- Focused reviews of claim issues identified in the settlement agreement.
- Reviews conducted in accordance with an IRO workplan incorporated within the settlement agreement.

The Parente Randolph Healthcare Consulting Group specializes in third-party reimbursement, compliance issues and appropriate billing of healthcare services. Our Healthcare Consulting Group is uniquely comprised of individuals with many years of related experience in accounting, finance, clinical laboratory, clinical nursing, health information coding, education and specific regulatory issues.

Standard compliance program requirements of Corporate Integrity Agreements (CIAs) include review procedures to be performed by an Independent Review Organization (IRO). The provider is required to retain an entity, such as an accounting, evaluating,

law firm or consultant to perform procedures to assist the provider in assessing their compliance with program requirements and provisions specific to the CIA. The selection of an IRO is made by the provider. The Officer of Inspector General (OIG) does not endorse any proprietary products nor will it indicate which IROs it believes are most qualified.

Factors to consider in the selection of an IRO:

Independence — Several of the factors the OIG will consider when assessing an IRO's independence are whether:

1. the IRO or any of its members have a financial interest in the provider;
2. the IRO will evaluate the implementation of a compliance program that it created and implemented for the provider;
3. and to what extent the IRO was involved in the provider's management decisions (including, for example, reporting to the Board of Directors); and
4. the IRO played any role in operating the provider's compliance program.

Parente Randolph can serve as an Independent Review Organization in fulfilling Corporate Integrity Agreement (CIA) evaluation obligations. Generally, such agreements recommend an outside independent organization conduct procedures to assess compliance with the agreement.

Experience — Factors for the provider to consider when selecting an IRO are whether:

1. the entity has any previous experience as an IRO;
2. the entity has the experience and knowledge to meet the program requirements of the CIA;
3. the entity has sufficient resources (professionals) to perform the required work in a timely and efficient manner;
4. the entity conducts billing reviews in accordance with OIG guidelines (many CIAs and Agreements require that the OIG's RAT-STATS program be used to generate random numbers) and;
5. the entity follows professional guidelines in conducting their work, such as generally accepted accounting and evaluation procedures.

Value — Factors to consider when determining the value of the IRO's services are:

1. the quality of the professionals involved in the engagement and their ability to interact effectively with provider personnel;
2. the firm's reputation not only among its clients and the business community at large, but also among other members of the profession; and
3. providing the maximum service to our clients at the lowest possible cost consistent with our high standards of quality and professional responsibilities.

For more information, contact:

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