November 9, 2016

Dear Provider:

We are pleased to announce that the 2016 New York State HIV Quality of Care Program Review will be conducted in early 2017 with a deadline for submission of March 31, 2017. Based on the recommendations of the NYS HIV Quality of Care Clinical Advisory Committee and its Ending the Epidemic Subcommittee, this year the Review will use a dynamic new approach geared to help providers move quickly from performance measurement to quality improvement and focus on activities directly linked to the Governor’s Ending the Epidemic Initiative. Viral load suppression, antiretroviral therapy, and STI indicators will be included in the eHIVQUAL online application. In addition, providers will be expected to submit the following:

- Organizational HIV treatment cascades
- Plans to improve aspects of HIV care as indicated by the cascades
- Results of a stigma survey focusing on organization-level characteristics
- Smoking cessation campaign data

We hope that you will find the Review a rewarding process, and we look forward to partnering with you in our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of HIV care in New York State. As a reminder, all HIV programs that participate in the New York State Medicaid program are also expected to fully participate in the New York State AIDS Institute’s HIV Quality of Care Program Review. Your successful fulfillment of this expectation will help us achieve our goal to end the epidemic in New York State by 2020 and contribute to New York’s role in meeting the aims of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Your HIV care team will soon receive formal instructions regarding their submission of data to monitor care provided to New Yorkers living with HIV. While we know that providers are busy with clinical responsibilities and other obligations, we underscore the importance of the statewide assessment of care and our unified commitment to steadily improve it. Updates on submission requirements, protocols, and resources will be disseminated regularly between now and the opening of submissions in January 2017. To enable direct communication of these updates, we kindly request that organizations confirm or, if applicable, correct the contact information of their HIV Medical Director with the NYS Quality of Care Program at qocreviews@health.ny.gov.

In the interim, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the 2016 Review, please feel free to contact Dan Belanger, Director of the NYS Quality of Care Program, at daniel.belanger@health.ny.gov.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Best regards,

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