DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

AUG 13 2007

Ms. Sharon Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Health Care Excel Quality Quest
Suite 3055
11811 North Tatum Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85028-1637

Dear Ms. Smith:

We have reviewed your request of July 2, 2007, requesting that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recertify Health Care Excel Quality Quest, as a Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)-like entity. Health Care Excel Quality Quest meets the requirements to be a QIO-like entity, namely:

- It is a physician-access organization under section 1152 of the Social Security Act (The Act);
- It is able to perform limited medical and quality review functions required under Section 1154 of the Act;
- It has one individual who is representative of consumers on its governing body under section 1152 of the Act; and
- It is not a health care facility, health care facility affiliate, or health care facility association defined in 42 CFR 475.105.

This designates Health Care Excel Quality Quest as a QIO-like entity eligible to operate in Arizona and in other states. Your recertification is granted for a period of 3 years and will expire on July 30, 2010.

This recertification of eligibility permits your organization to seek a contract with the states for review activities. States have specific qualifications and performance requirements depending upon the scope of work they desire to procure. This recertification does not reflect a determination as to whether your organization has the ability to meet those requirements. The state is responsible for making that determination. We have recertified your organization to review cases and analyze

patterns of care related to medical necessity and quality review. We have not recertified the organization as meeting the State Medicaid Agency's requirements for external quality review or related functions such as utilization review specified in 1903 (a) (3) (C)(i) and 1932 (c)(2) of the Act. In addition, we have not evaluated the organization to perform the same functions as a QIO under contract with CMS.

You must provide an annual assurance statement of your continued adherence to recertification requirements within 30 days of the last month of the first recertification year and within 30 days of the last month of the second recertification year. In addition, if there are any changes in the name, address, or pool of physician reviewers you must notify this office for a re-evaluation of your recertification.

At any time during the recertification period if Health Care Excel Quality Quest no longer meets the above criteria, it will no longer be considered a QIO-like entity and the recertification will be terminated.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy O'Brien of my staff on (410) 786-6710 or Email, Kathy.Obrien@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Valerie Mattison Brown, M.S.
Acting Director
Quality Improvement Group
Office of Clinical Standards and Quality