COMMUNICATION FROM THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE HEALTH SCIENCES CODE OF CONDUCT

Kenneth H. Fye, MD, Chair

May 5, 2008

David Gardner, MD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate
Office of the Academic Senate, Box 0764

RE: Review of the Proposed Revisions to the Health Sciences Code of Conduct

Dear Chair Gardner:

As requested, the Task Force to Review the Proposed Revisions to the Health Sciences Code of Conduct have discussed the proposed changes. Overall, the Task Force supports the revisions as they make the document more direct, succinct and easier to reference than the previous version. The Task Force has two recommended changes, as follows:

1. Section 6. Medical Necessity (lines 77-82) (suggested language in bold italics):

   “The UC__ [insert campus name] Health System shall submit claims for payment to governmental, private, or individual payers only for services or items that are medically necessary and appropriate.

   ▪ Patients may request a service that is not a covered benefit. The service may be provided as long as the patient has been given advance notice that a service is not a covered benefit and has agreed to pay for the services.
   ▪ This does not apply to emergency medical care, as specified in ethical and legal directives such as the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act.”

2. Section 7. Compliance with all Coding, Billing, Cost Reports and Other Contractual/Grant Terms and Conditions (lines 85-88) (suggested language inserted in bold italics):

   “Every member of the UC __ [insert campus name] Health System who is involved, directly or indirectly, in the preparation or submission of a bill to any governmental or private payer is expected to ensure the accuracy of the information they provide, such that the bill reflects only those services rendered and products delivered and in the correct amount, supported by appropriate documentation.”

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed revisions. Please contact us if you have questions or need more information.

Task Force to Review the Proposed Revisions to the Health Sciences Code of Conduct

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