The Washington Hospital Services (formerly RHQN) peer review physician group recently met to discuss further standardization of the set of patient charts to be reviewed during each site visit.

As a result of this discussion, a new core list of reviewable chart types and a limit on the number of charts to be reviewed has been developed. These will, in turn, further support the gathering and analysis of statewide peer review data and development of statewide quality initiatives based on local chart review findings.

The core list of charts to be reviewed includes:

- Stroke care charts
- Acute coronary syndrome charts
- Surgical complications
- Transfers (both inpatient and Emergency Department)
- New physicians (both inpatient and Emergency Department)
- Deaths
- Patient complaints
- Left AMA
- Returns within 72 hrs.

*Limit the number of charts to be reviewed to 45 or less*

In addition, your peer review physician may ask to see other charts based on concerns from previous reviews, new criteria in which the peer review physician group has an interest (hot topics across the state), or patient care associated with a clinically adverse event.

This set of peer review chart selection criteria took effect August 1, 2010 and will remain in effect with the transition of services to WHS-HQS. If you have questions or concerns please contact: 1.) your peer review physician, 2.) Elizabeth Evans; Peer Review Coordinator at 206 216-2550 or lize@wsha.org, or 3.) Beth Zborowski; WHS Executive Director, at 206 577-1807 or bethz@wsha.org.