

## Organizations “supposed” to monitor Hospital’s Quality of Delivery of Care

**JCAHO: Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.** “Non profit financed by hospitals”. A wholly subsidiary, Joint Commission Resources (“JCR”) is a not-for-profit organization that was established for the purpose of independently assisting Health care organizations. An additional subsidiary, JCAHO Surveyor and QHR Consultant Corporation, administers an employment program for the Joint Commission ( see page 5 of JCAHO’s Consolidated Financial Statements for the Years ended December 31 2002 and 2001).

**DHHS: Department of Human Health Services.** There are multiple DHHS’ in the country:

- Federal
- State
- County
- City

Medical Peer Review is the responsibility of the **County’s** DHHS. Unfortunately, Los Angeles County has limited resources (one physician) and a limited budget. The Office of the Inspector General at the US Department of Human Health Services has the knowledge but no jurisdiction. It acts through the US Department of Justice and other executive branches to prosecute violations of the Law. Hence, it does not monitor early enough to prevent errors in the delivery of Medical Care.

**STATE MEDICAL BOARDS:** Each State has its own Medical Board thus it depends on each State’s Budget. It is supposed to protect the consumer yet, has only jurisdiction over physicians’ patient care, not over hospitals’ administrators, attorneys and physicians involved in Medical Peer Review. Reports to the Medical Board are initiated by the Administrators of Hospitals and there is no sanction for false reporting.

**AMA:** The **American Medical Association** has a Vice President for Professional Standards and a delegate to the Board of JCAHO.

**CMA: California Medical Association** ( see IMQ ).

**IMQ** (in California): **Institute of Medical Quality Assurance.** It is part of **CMA.** Yet, the hospitals need to ask and pay for its survey in order for the IMQ to initiate an investigation regarding Medical Peer Review and Medical Staff matters at that hospital. IMQ is part of the JCAHO survey of hospitals every three years. The IMQ Staff believes that JCAHO has no jurisdiction in California regarding Medical Peer Review matters. Yet, the President of JCAHO says that it does have jurisdiction when there is no survey.

**HCQIA: Health Care Quality Improvement Act.** It is a body of Laws passed by Congress, regulating the Hospitals/Healthcare Industry. It is also referred to as Title 42.