



**“Our mission is to support
Maine physicians, advance
the quality of medicine in
Maine, and promote the
health of all Maine citizens.”**

— Lisa Ryan, D.O.

OUR HISTORY

For more than twenty-five years, the Maine Medical Association has made available an external peer review program to Maine hospitals and other healthcare facilities. The External Peer Review Program provides Maine’s medical community an important source of independent review that is confidential and undiscoverable under Maine Law (32 M.R.S.A., Chapter 48). MMA’s Peer Review teams are made up of physicians and other healthcare providers who live and work in Maine. The program is able to offer a uniquely objective, honest, and comprehensive report designed to improve patient care.



Maine Medical
Association

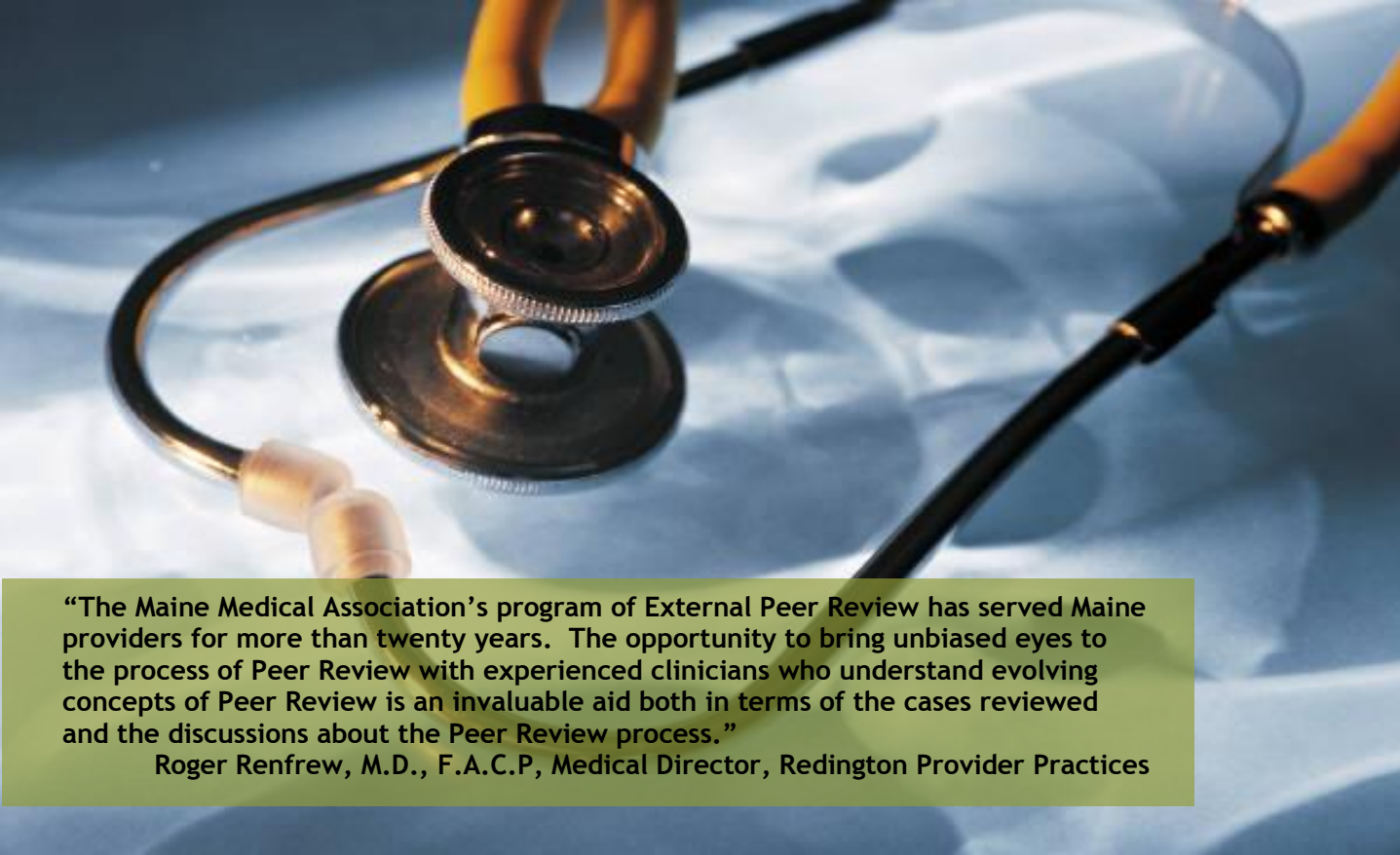
External Peer Review
Program

WE CAN HELP WITH YOUR PEER REVIEW CHALLENGES

Our Program’s Goals & Priorities are to:

- Provide a balanced and fair review to ensure that the type and quality of care provided is current and appropriate.
- Ensure quality and transparency of reviews.
- Engage the best reviewers.
- Provide quality evaluation of peer review programs.
- Promote peer review as an educational opportunity for best practice.
- Deliver professional reports with definitive findings on a timely basis.
- Provide post-review support, such as conference calls to clarify findings and determine next steps.
- Improve quality and patient safety by learning from past performance, errors, and near misses.
- Promote best practice in peer review.

**For more information contact
Dianna Poulin, BS CHE
Coordinator for Peer Review & Quality
Maine Medical Association
PO Box 190, 30 Association Drive
Manchester, ME 04351
207-622-3374, Ext.223**



“The Maine Medical Association’s program of External Peer Review has served Maine providers for more than twenty years. The opportunity to bring unbiased eyes to the process of Peer Review with experienced clinicians who understand evolving concepts of Peer Review is an invaluable aid both in terms of the cases reviewed and the discussions about the Peer Review process.”

Roger Renfrew, M.D., F.A.C.P, Medical Director, Redington Provider Practices

A brief overview of the process...

When a review is requested, MMA’s Peer Review Coordinator will provide an introductory packet that will include MMA’s External Peer Review Policy, fee schedule, and the Request for Review form that will help determine the type of review needed to fulfill the requestor’s needs. If an off-site visit is ordered, we will make arrangements to send the reviewer(s) the files. We will provide them with peer review guidelines for examination of medical records, guidelines for the report template, and a suggested review form (unless the facility has its own peer review tool).

If an on-site review is ordered, MMA will assign a team to review charts and coordinate meetings with identified individuals. This may include providers, other clinical staff, and administrators.

Following the site visit, the requestor will receive a comprehensive report following the protocol developed by MMA’s Physician Quality Committee.

“Even in a hospital the size of MaineGeneral, it is sometimes difficult to objectively evaluate one’s peer. MMA’s Peer Review Program fills that gap.”

**Steve Diaz, M.D., V.P., Medical Administration
MaineGeneral Medical Center**

“This was the first review I have been involved in. The process was easy. The physician performing the review gave really useful information & feedback in an educational and helpful manner.”

Regen Gallagher, DO, MBA, Cary Medical Center

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q What types of peer review do you offer?

A We offer both routine (re-credentialing) and focused reviews. The reviews can be done either offsite or onsite depending on the needs of the requestor and the number of cases/reviewers needed.

Q What are the requirements for the peer reviewer?

A All members of the peer review pool are licensed in the State of Maine, board certified (preferred), have experience relative to the requested review, and must be in good standing in a system of care, i.e. hospital, FQHC, stand-alone medical practice.

Q How expensive is the program?

A Compared to other national organizations that provide external peer review, MMA’s program is cost-effective. An additional value is the benefit of being reviewed by your colleagues in Maine.

Q What would you say to a provider being reviewed?

A The goal is to provide a final report that is unbiased with suggestions for improvement; if applicable, or as a validation of the currency and appropriate of the care and/or process. The purpose is educational.

Q What legal protections does this process include?

A An important element of the program is that the reviewer(s) conducting the review and the provider(s) being reviewed are protected under the Maine Peer Review statute. (32 M.R.S.A., Chapter 48)