

**Joint Commission vendor Listserv Posted 4/03/08**  
**Clarification of the Algorithm Branch Logic in Processing Antibiotic Administration Time in SCIP-Inf-2 and SCIP-Inf-3 Measures**

The Joint Commission and CMS have received multiple inquiries regarding the interpretation of the algorithm logic in the processing of the first *Antibiotic Administration Time* decision point on pages SCIP-Inf-2-8 and SCIP-Inf-3-7 in version 2.4 of the *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures*. (Discharges April 1 through September 30, 2008). This clarification is provided to ensure vendors correctly program the branches as mutually exclusive for the *Antibiotic Administration Time* decision point until it is revised in the version 2.5 of the NHIQM manual (Discharges October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009).

On pages SCIP-Inf-2-8 and SCIP-Inf-3-7, the arrow logic to the right of Antibiotic Administration Time processes cases to a 'D' category where time was 'UTD' for all antibiotic doses or time was 'UTD' for ANY antibiotic dose with Antibiotic Days I = 1. The arrow logic flowing down from Antibiotic Administration Time should be interpreted as: Non-UTD time for ALL antibiotic doses with Antibiotic Days I = 1.

If additional information is needed, please contact <http://manual.jointcommission.org>, [qnetsupport@ifmc.sdps.org](mailto:qnetsupport@ifmc.sdps.org), or submit your question through the Quest application.