

James Randolph Farris, M.D.
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James Randolph Farris is Consortium Administrator for Quality Improvement and Survey & Certification Operations. In collaborative partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Clinical Standards and Quality in Baltimore, the Consortium Administrator for Quality Improvement and Survey & Certification Operations (CQISCO) guides field implementation of CMS goals and objectives for quality improvement and quality assurance in the ten CMS Regional Offices and participates in the establishment of policy and strategic direction. Reporting directly to the Office of the Administrator, the CQISCO Consortium Administrator also provides executive leadership and direction to the Regional Administrator in the Atlanta Regional Office and to the Chief Medical Officers in the 10 CMS Regional Offices; manages Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations for CMS; and provides leadership oversight to the new CMS Regional Innovation Network, which will test innovative models that will strengthen and modernize the nation's health care system.

Prior to assuming the CQISCO Consortium Administrator role in 2006, Dr. Farris served as Regional Health Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In that capacity, he had responsibility for oversight of Federal public health programs in the Region VI states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana. He became Regional Administrator of the Dallas office of CMS in 1998. In that role, he had responsibility for the Medicare, Medicaid, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act and State Children's Health Insurance Programs in Federal Region VI. For several years, Dr. Farris led the national CMS effort to increase influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates among Medicare beneficiaries. As part of that responsibility, he was a member of the Secretary's National Vaccine Advisory Committee. He also served as the lead CMS Regional Administrator for rural health issues.

Dr. Farris received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and his medical degree from Howard University. He completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine at Martin Luther King General Hospital in Los Angeles, California and served as Chief Medical Resident. During his years of clinical practice in Dallas, Texas, Dr. Farris held the positions of Assistant Attending Physician in Internal Medicine at St. Paul Medical Center and Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He was a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award at the Meritorious level in 2002 and received the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership from American University in 2003.