

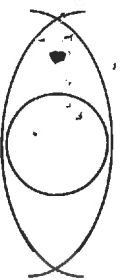
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Meyers</i>	DATE <i>5-22-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOC NUMBER <i>000605</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleared on 6/11/08, letter attached</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>6-2-08</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	

APPROVALS <small>(Only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



STORM EYE I N S T I T U T E

Department of Ophthalmology
Medical University of South Carolina

167 Ashley Avenue
Charleston SC 29425

(843) 792-9100 / (800) 864-3513
Fax: (843) 792-4854
www.stormeye.org

M. Edward Wilson, Jr. MD

Chairman

Pierre E. Jambou Professor

(843) 792-7622, fax: (843) 792-4165

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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Log. Myers
April 10 Sign

April 11, 2008

State of South Carolina

Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Physician Services

ATTN: Valerie Williams

P. O. Box 8206

Columbia, SC 29202

RE: Dominic Jamison

MRN: 2554597

DOB: October 7, 2006

SC Medicaid #: 8780679145

Dear Ms. Williams:

I have recently had difficulty sending a critical patient to a national expert on eye tumor treatment and I am hoping to enlist the help of the South Carolina Medicaid office.

I have followed and treated Dominic Jamison since he was an infant for retinoblastoma, which is a rare and potentially fatal eye tumor. Dominic has undergone multiple laser treatments and chemotherapy for his tumor. Earlier this year, the tumor was not responding and I discussed his case with Dr. Carol Shields, who is a national expert on retinoblastoma. She suggested that Dominic might benefit from a radiation plaque treatment, which is offered only at a few centers and is not available in state. ~~I asked to send Dominic to Dr. Shields.~~ Retinoblastoma grows quickly and it is important that it be treated and managed in a timely fashion.

My understanding after multiple conversations with Maidis Koger-Boyd at the Medicaid office and with Dr. Shield's office is that an out-of-state provider who agrees to see and treat a patient on South Carolina Medicaid must be credentialed by the South Carolina Medicaid program. This is a very time consuming and tedious procedure involving much paperwork and documentation. Frankly, national experts such as Dr. Shields and her staff do not have time or enough motivation to ask such additional work of them. I felt fortunate that Dr. Shields is willing to treat Dominic, and she had agreed to accept SC Medicaid payment, but her office is not willing to spend the additional time involved to be "credentialed". They note that other states do not require this (and they are plenty busy seeing other needy patients in other states!). It took a few weeks and many discussions (and frustrated reactions) to finally give up.



STORM EYE INSTITUTE

Department of Ophthalmology
Medical University of South Carolina

167 Ashley Avenue
Charleston SC 29425

(843) 792-8100 / (800) 894-3518
Fax: (843) 792-4654
www.stormeye.org

M. Edward Wilson, Jr., MD
Chairman

Pierre B. Jannits Professor
(843) 792-7922 Fax: (843) 792-4658

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Arthur B. Hodge Professor of Ophthalmology
David T. Vroman, MD

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RESEARCH

Oraly Jonsson, PhD
Vice Chair, Research
Pamela Valletton Professor

Zsolt Atsányi, PhD

Luanna R. Bartholomew, PhD

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Luis Fernandez de Castro, MD

Shahid Husain, PhD

Masheer Kura, PhD

Yannis Koutalos, PhD

David E. Potter, PhD

Barbara M. Rohrer, PhD

Hege Sandover, MD

Rajpal Tiveli, MD

RE: Dominic Jannison

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While it is too late for Domonic (he is going to another national center which, while very good, will not have the expertise of Dr. Shields), I would like very much to streamline this process so that South Carolina doctors who are in need of specific national expert care for a life-threatening illness can have this accomplished quickly. Dr. Shields' office was not willing to go through the credentialing process, although they were willing to accept South Carolina Medicaid payment. We do not want the children of our state to be such a burden either on the physicians trying to refer them or the accepting consulting physicians that are prevented from receiving timely expert care. I would very much appreciate your thoughts.

Please let me know if other information would be useful.

Sincerely,

Mae Millicent Petersen, M.D.

MMP/sbw

cc: Richard A. Saunders, M.D.
MUSC - Storm Eye Institute
P. O. Box 250676
Charleston, SC 29425

Mr. Collin C. Allen
Legislative Assistant to Lindsay O. Graham,
United States Senator
290 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

June 11, 2008

Mae Millicent Peterseim, M.D.
Storm Eye Institute
Department of Ophthalmology - MUSC
167 Ashley Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29425

Dear Dr. Peterseim:

We appreciate your concern for our South Carolina Medicaid recipients. Your steadfast approach to assisting Dominic Jamison is admirable. While we understand the procedures for approving out-of-state services may appear to be time consuming, they are required to ensure we are adhering to all federal regulations and guidelines. Our policy also ensures that South Carolina Medicaid recipients receive the best care.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) provides compensation to medical providers outside the South Carolina Medical Service Area (SCMSA) for services rendered to recipients when they need emergency medical services or when a physician certifies that the services required are not available within the SCMSA. Our policies and procedures are designed to make certain that the referring physician, as well as the out of state provider, both understand the policies and agree to reimbursement terms prior to committing to treatment of a South Carolina Medicaid recipient.

The requirements that we have in place for credentialing are based on the guidelines that SCDHHS must follow to access federal funds through the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The intent of the policy is to assist the out of state provider with the credentialing process. This process provides SCDHHS with information required to verify that the out of state provider is licensed and board certified. The process also gathers tax information, which allows SCDHHS to issue payment to the provider and meet federal tax reporting requirements. Again, the required documents are not intended to impede treatment of our recipients, it is in place to aid both the referring and rendering physician while providing the best care to our South Carolina Medicaid recipients.

Log # 605
✓

Mae Millicent Peterseim, M.D.

June 11, 2008

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Thank you for contacting the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. We appreciate your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid program. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Valeria Williams, Division Director in Physicians Services, at (803) 898-2660.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Felicity Myers', written over the printed name.

Felicity Myers
Deputy Director

FM/gd