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

ACTION REFERRAL

Change due date to 1/16/13 per Janet on 1/11/13

TO <i>Hess</i>	DATE <i>1-2-13</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>190</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-16-13</i>
<i>cc: Mr. Keck, Singleton cleared 1/11/13, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

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

Brenda James

Log #190

From: Janet Bell
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 9:47 AM
To: Brenda James
Cc: Jennifer Campbell; James Bradford; Mary Cooper; Roy Hess
Subject: Log Letter 000190

Brenda,
We need an extension until January 16, 2013, on this log letter. Let me know if you need anything else. Thanks!

Janet R. Bell
Administrative Coordinator
Managed Care
SC Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 898-3202

Log letter 000190



January 11, 2013

Frederick T. Garner, MD
Palmetto Surgery Center
109 Blarney Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29223-6244

Dear Dr. Garner:

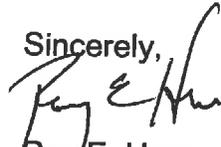
Thank you for your letter of December 12th regarding approval for South Carolina beneficiaries to be treated at your Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC). We appreciate your efforts to assist the Medicaid program to reduce expenditures by offering to perform surgical procedures in a less cost efficient setting than inpatient hospitals.

All of our Managed Care Organizations follow the South Carolina Medicaid guidelines at a minimum, and our Policies and Procedure manual can be viewed online at www.scdhhs.gov. With regard to Ambulatory Surgery Centers, on page 22 of the Managed Care Policy and Procedures guide it stipulates that, "Ambulatory surgical centers must be surveyed and licensed by DHEC, certified by the CMS, and accredited by a nationally recognized body." This policy has been in place for several years and to date, I am not aware of any access issues. Since November of last year, we have been interacting with the South Carolina Ambulatory Surgery Center Association and worked closely with them in developing our policy. Included in our plans for this calendar year, we will be reevaluating this and other policies. As you are aware, we are focused on quality and our decisions are based on setting the bar high so that we ensure that we purchase the most healthcare for the least amount of money to the taxpayers.

We are not able to grant a waiver for your services as we are following our guidelines. While I understand the positive fiscal impact of allowing you to provide surgical procedures, we do have ASCs who meet our guidelines and serve our Medicaid population.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your concerns one on one at any time.

Sincerely,


Roy E. Hess
Deputy Director

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Hess</i>	DATE <i>1-2-13</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100-190</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Keck, Singleton</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-11-13</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
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DEC 17 2012

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**Palmetto Surgery Center
109 Blarney Drive
Columbia, S.C. 29223-6244**

December 12, 2012

Anthony Keck
SC Dept. of Health & Human Services
Office of Medical Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Re: Select Health of SC
Managed Care Medicaid

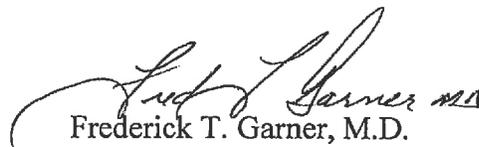
Mr. Keck:

I would like to initiate a discussion about Select Health and obtaining approval for them to send patients to the Palmetto Surgery Center (PSC) for surgical procedures. The Palmetto Surgery Center is privately owned by physicians. It is a free standing ambulatory surgery center that has an exemplary safety record, excellent quality care and profound cost savings for it's patients. In addition it has been Certified by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and operates under those guidelines. One year ago Select Health informed PSC that it could no longer allow their patients to have surgery there due to a state regulation that stipulates PSC must have accreditation from one of the four national accreditation agencies. None of our other insurance carriers including Medicare require this. In addition Tricare has recently signed an agreement to allow their patients to have procedures at PSC, and have fully accepted the CMS certification. I have included the correspondence and agreement with Tricare with this letter.

On behalf of the Palmetto Surgery Center I am requesting a waiver from the regulation that prevents Select Health from utilizing the PSC. This would accomplish two important objectives. It would increase access and availability of medical and surgical care for Select Health patients by eliminating wait time at hospitals and improving flexibility of scheduling for Surgeons who are caring for these patients. Lastly it would save tremendously on costs to the health care system. Routinely surgical fees from a private freestanding ambulatory surgical center are 3 to 4 times less than an identical procedure performed at a hospital.

I appreciate your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,


Frederick T. Garner, M.D.

**Palmetto Surgery Center
109 Blarney Drive
Columbia, S.C. 29223-6244**

November 6, 2012

Palmetto Surgery Center opened in January of 2000 having been licensed by the South Carolina Dept. of Health and certified by CMS (The Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services). We have provided ENT surgery, eye surgery, facial plastic surgery and dental surgery to over 50,000 patients to date. The State of SC and CMS do not require accreditation by one of the private organizations to treat Medicare and Medicaid patients. We do not have any insurer that requires accreditation to be in their network. We have also treated Tricare patients for the past 13 years.

Our Governing Board looked at the standards required to be accredited by these private organizations and they were the same as the requirements to be Certified by Medicare/Medicaid therefore the Board decided not to pay the \$15,000 fee to have one of these private organizations give us accreditation.

We would like to request a waiver to be allowed to join the Tricare network without having to be accredited by one of these private organizations.

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for being included in the Tricare network to continue to give patients a choice of having their elective surgery at our center where patients receive excellent care at a much lower cost than a hospital setting. We have always received 98%+ excellent ratings from our patients on our follow up phone contact with each and every patient after surgery.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



**Fleet McClamrock
Administrator
Palmetto Surgery Center**

November 14, 2012

Alan H. Brill, MD
Palmetto Surgery Center
109 Blarney Dr.
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Brill:

On November 13, 2012, the InStil Health Insurance Company, TRICARE Program Credentialing Committee approved the current credentials of **Palmetto Surgery Center** for participation in the TRICARE Network.

Natalie Johnston, Manager of Network/Provider Relations, will be sending you a separate letter to advise you of the approving your TRICARE Network Agreement. Please address any questions about the status of your contract or TRICARE network participation to her at (803) 763-6562.

Unless otherwise notified, your credentials will remain active until November 13, 2015.

If you have any questions about your credentialing status, please contact the Credentialing Team Leader, at (803) 763-6557.

Sincerely,



Elaine K. Jeter, MD
Medical Director
InStil Health Insurance Company

cc: Natalie Johnston, Network Operations
Charles R Richardson MA, CPUR, FAHM, Credentialing Manager

“Quality assurance document under 10 U.S.C., 1102. Copies of this document, enclosures thereto, and information herefrom will not be further released under penalties of law. Unauthorized disclosure carries a possible \$3,000. fine.”

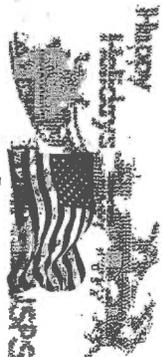
Palmetto Surgery Center
109 Blarney Dr.
Columbia, SC 29223

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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Anthony Keck
SCDHHS
Office of Medical Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

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