

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Medical Services/82</i>	DATE <i>2/18/11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>1011366</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Mr. Cook</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2/28/11</i>
<i>C: Tae Williams</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. <i>Claud 3/10/11, letter attached.</i>			
2.			
3.			
4.			



Columbia Women's
Healthcare

tending to the unique nature of women

GYNECOLOGY • ROUTINE and HIGH RISK OBSTETRICS • INFERTILITY

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SC DHHS Medical Director
c/o Valeria Williams
Division Director
Division of Physician Services
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear SC DHHS Medical Director,

On behalf of Columbia Women's Healthcare, I am writing to request that The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services review the current coverage of hysteroscopic sterilization procedures and consider amending the policy to cover both Essure and Adiana hysteroscopic sterilization methods.

Disappointingly, it has come to my attention that SC DHHS is willing to cover hysteroscopic sterilization but only when performed with the Essure device. I have years of experience using the Essure coil occlusion method. And while it has been a wonderful alternative to tubal ligation for my patients, it is not appropriate for all patients. As a physician, treating high volume of Medicaid members, it is important to me that I have a choice in offering your members the method that is most clinically appropriate, not dependent on insurance coverage.

Based on clinical data with 3 years of follow up, and my understanding of the mechanics of Adiana, I am comfortable offering this method to my patients and at this point I have performed 10 cases with Adiana. As a physician, I find the Adiana method easy to perform. The Adiana system confirms correct tubal location prior to placement of the silicone matrix. This results in a high number of successful bilateral placements, meaning less cost to the system in failed procedures. In addition, the Adiana device is made of biocompatible silicone matrix. It contains no metal, not is it a coil configuration. This gives me peace of mind that future Gynecology procedures (ie: D&C) will be possible in women with Adiana matrices in place, without concern of metal coils possibly protruding in the uterus. Additionally, because of the matrix material and delivery mechanism, I am not concerned about nickel allergies of perforations.

Harold A. Moore, M.D. • Alexander R. Smythe, II, M.D. • Mary K. Neuffer, M.D.

Albert E. Odom, M.D. • Kathryn L. Moore, M.D. • Myles D. Davis, M.D. • John H. Moore, M.D.

1301 Taylor Street • Suite 6-J • Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 254-3230 • Fax (803) 779-9581

Over the past few years we have increasingly been moving procedures out of the OR and into the office setting. In having the option for hysteroscopic sterilization we are now able to minimize OR based tubal ligation and offer a permanent sterilization solution in a safe, comfortable environment for the patient and a less costly setting for the healthcare system. I am certain hospital tubal sterilization costs 3-5 times that of Adiana. We have found patients to be more compliant in following through with procedures when offered in the office setting. We believe this means that more women, who want permanent sterilization, will follow through with the procedure, thereby further reducing cost to the healthcare system in a reduction of unwanted pregnancies/births. In addition, we are aware that often times this patient population has risk factors that preclude the ability to perform tubal ligation under general anesthesia. Hysteroscopic sterilization offers an alternative to these patients by offering a permanent sterilization method that can be provided without general anesthesia, again reducing the likelihood of unwanted pregnancies in patient who are not appropriate for undergoing a tubal ligation procedure.

At this time, SC DHHS is the only payer in SC that we are aware of that is not willing to cover the Adiana hysteroscopic sterilization procedure. With both efficacy and material cost being comparable, we are at a loss as to why we would be forced to choose one method over the other, particularly when we find clinical benefits to offering Adiana. We are hopeful that The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will reconsider their stance on allowing only one hysteroscopic sterilization method to be covered. Our physicians would be glad to speak with you further regarding the efficacy and performance of the Adiana hysteroscopic sterilization procedure.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at the number provided below.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.



Alexander R. Smythe, II, MD
Clinical Associate Professor of OB-GYN
Columbia Women's Healthcare
1301 Taylor Street, Suite 6-J
Columbia, SC 29201
803-254-3230

Cc: Ms. Emma Forkner, Director

Harold A. Moore, M.D. • Alexander R. Smythe, II, M.D. • Mary K. Neuffer, M.D.
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1. LOG NUMBER 100366		<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Mr Beck</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2/28/11</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	
<i>C:Vae Williams</i>			

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1. <i>Valerie Williams</i>	<i>3-7-11</i>		
2. <i>BS J...</i>	<i>3-10-11 a/c</i>		
3.			
4.			

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DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

FEB 22 2011

Bureau of Health Services



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March 10, 2011

Alexander R. Smythe, II, MD
Clinical Associate Professor of OB-GYN
Columbia Women's Healthcare
1301 Taylor Street, Suite 6-J
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Dr. Smythe:

Thank you for the recent letter requesting Medicaid coverage of Adiana®. The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is currently researching this hysteroscopic sterilization procedure and will notify providers of any change in our policy through a Medicaid Bulletin.

We appreciate your taking the time to contact us and for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid program. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact your Program Manager at (803) 898-2660.

Sincerely,

Melanie "BZ" Giese, RN
Bureau Director

MG/rws