


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

**ACTION REFERRAL**

<b>TO</b> <i>Felicity / Dr. Burton</i>	<b>DATE</b> <i>5-01-09</i>
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<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>		<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101620</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Emma Forkner</i>  <i>Shelley [signature]</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>5-12-09</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	

<b>APPROVALS</b> (Only when prepared for director's signature)	<b>APPROVE</b>	<b>* DISAPPROVE</b> (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	<b>COMMENT</b>
1. <i>Cleand 5/12/09, letter attached.</i>			
2.			
3.			
4.			



## DORCHESTER MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

DAVID J. BAGGETT, M.D.  
WALTER D. LEVENTHAL, M.D.  
J. HENK BURGER, M.D.

299-A Midland Parkway  
Summerville, SC 29485  
Telephone: (843) 875-7901  
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April 29, 2009

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2009

SC Department of Health & Human Services  
Attn: Medical Director  
PO Box 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Re: Joseph Ranchich  
DOB: 01/08/1947

Mr. Ranchich has been my patient for a number of years. He suffers from multiple medical problems including atherosclerosis, atrial fibrillation, and status post 4 vessel bypass in 2000. He has also had a splenectomy in 1991 and also suffers from hypothyroidism and insulin dependent diabetes. In addition, the patient has nephropathy on the basis of his diabetes and atherosclerosis.

More recently the patient had a severe epistaxis and an aneurysm of the internal carotid was diagnosed for which he was treated at MUSC with coils into the carotid artery. He also suffers from chronic depression.

Medications at this time include the following: Tricor 145 mg daily, Potassium 20 meq daily, Lasix 40 mg 2- twice a day, Pravachol 40 mg daily, Coreg 12.5 mg twice a day, Levothyroxine 125 mcg-2 every a.m., Lisinopril 10 mg daily, Digoxin .125 daily, Warfarin every other day, Lantus insulin on an adjustable regimen and Glipizide 5 mg twice a day. In addition for his depression, he takes Fluoxetine 20 mg a day.

It has come to my attention that Mr. Ranchich has been limited to only 12 outpatient visits per year. In the light of his numerous medical problems and the reasons for him to get medications checked and labs done to keep him stable, this is a ridiculously low amount. He should need at least 12 visits to my office alone and perhaps another 12 to other specialists.

I think that he is fully justified in having the allowable number of outpatient visits increased substantially. Because he is fearful about costs, he has been reluctant to come see the doctor and sometimes he will only go to the emergency room when he is in severe distress. Of course this is not good medicine and not only that, but it is also very expensive.

Please pay close attention to the needs of this patient and allow him to have substantially larger amounts of outpatient visits to all of these doctors. We know that he also continues to see Dr. Coker for his heart and Dr. Pride for his nephropathy. He also has seen a Dr. Turk of the Interventional Radiology Group at MUSC on several occasions.

Yours sincerely,

Walter D. Leventhal, MD

WDL/cda



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Log # 620

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

May 12, 2009

Walter D. Leventhal, MD  
Dorchester Medical Associates  
299-A Midland Parkway  
Summerville, SC 29485

Re: Joseph Ranchich

Dear Dr. Leventhal:

Thank you for corresponding regarding this patient. I certainly concur that the complexity of his illnesses and need for medical oversight warrant additional physician office visits. These are certainly clinically indicated and medically necessary. I am forwarding your request to my South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services colleague, William Feagin, who will process this request for you. If you have any further concerns please call me at (803)255-3400 or (803)898-2580. In addition William is available at (803)898-3040.

Thank you for your advocacy regarding this patient and for caring for South Carolina Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

O. Marion Burton, MD  
Medical Director

cc: William Feagin