

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Miyas</i>	DATE <i>3-4-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOC NUMBER <i>000484</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>3-13-09</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Ref log # 390 cleared 3/12/09, letter attached.</i>	<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.			

Ref Log #340

February 10, 2009

RECEIVED

FEB 24 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Melanie Giese,

I am a dialysis patient from Clemson, currently receiving treatment at DaVita in Pendleton, South Carolina. I am concerned about the cuts to Medicaid and the end of reimbursement for vitamins.

As dialysis patients, our diets are strictly monitored. We have to eat diets that are high in protein, low in sodium, calcium, and phosphorus. With today's economy, it is hard for many patients to afford to eat the right foods to maintain a healthy diet. Since most patients have to receive dialysis three days a week, for about four hours per treatment, being able to have the vitamins provided at no extra charge make it possible to feel better and have improved lab results. A better lab result equals healthier living and a better way of life. Without these vital nutrients that we need, I'm concerned that many patients will get sicker or worse.

It is also important to me that I have access to the best quality of care. Although these Medicaid cuts don't directly affect me personally, I'm afraid that the cuts to Medicaid reimbursement could result in my health care team leaving to find better paying jobs.

While I understand that this may be a bad time due to a tough economy, I hope you will take all this into consideration and reconsider your decision to reduce the quality of life for many of your fellow South Carolinians.

Sincerely,

Melissa D. Meierholtz

Melissa D. Meierholtz

299 Fife Drive

Clemson, SC 29631

RECEIVED

MAR 04 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

← logged on this date

BZ - 5 be
2 good yrs
Necessary Action - ?
arranged by
000390



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

March 12, 2009

Ms. Melissa D. Meierholtz
299 Fife Drive
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

Dear Ms. Meierholtz:

Thank you for your concern regarding vitamins and supplements to Medicaid patients receiving dialysis treatments. We are pleased to inform you that as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the agency will continue to cover these services. End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Clinics and providers have been notified of the continuation of this service, so you should continue to receive the vitamins and supplements without interruption.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Division of Hospital Services at (803) 898-2665. We appreciate your continued support of the Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BZ Giese".

Melanie "BZ" Giese, RN
Bureau Director

MG/vb

Log # 484

