

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

ACTION REFERRAL

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| TO <i>Felicity M.</i> | DATE <i>5-28-08</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|

| DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY | ACTION REQUESTED |
|---|---|
| 1. LOG NUMBER <i>000617</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ |
| 2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Emma, Deps</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action DATE DUE _____ |

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



South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

1105 Pendleton Street • 207 Solomon Blatt Building • Columbia, SC 29201-3732
Phone: 803.734.3041 • Fax: 803.734.8711 • www.scilbc.org

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May 23, 2008

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2008

Emma Forkner
Director of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Ms. Forkner:

Recently, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus became aware of a recent decision by the Medicaid P&T committee to create a fail first/step therapy policy for the statin class of medication.

As you are aware, heart disease is the leading cause of death in South Carolina, accounting for 9,659 deaths or approximately 26% of the state's deaths in 2002. Stroke is the third leading cause of death, accounting for 2,822 deaths or approximately 7% of the state's deaths in 2002. (*National Vital Statistics Report 2004*; 53(5)). 13% of the general population over the age of 45-64 has diabetes, and 22% are smokers. There are 370,000 adults and disabled beneficiaries in SC Medicaid (2005, StateHealthFacts.org).

These numbers are even more staggering when you look at minority health statistics in South Carolina. As we understand the decision, over 5000 patients will be subject to statin treatment disruption that may lead to unscheduled physician visits, labs, and an increase on non-compliance and treatment discontinuation. This is a situation that we cannot afford to happen in minority patients.

We, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, respectfully ask that you overturn the decision of the P&T committee and maintain the current status of the statin class, because of the potential unintended consequences of the decision on those populations who least can afford to have their medications changed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Leon Howard
Chairman

Log: Myers

C: GF

"NICKY" Depp

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