


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers/Dr. Burton</i>	DATE <i>10-9-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOC NUMBER <i>000197</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleared 10/20/08, action attached.</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>10-20-08</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.			

SANTEE HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY

Dr. Billy Clowney, MD

RECEIVED

Marion Burton, MD
Medical Director

OCT 09 2008

Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

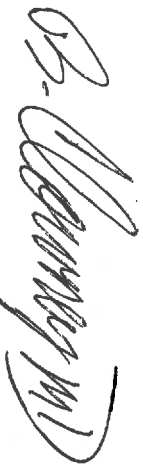
Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 7, 2008

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that Levaquin will no longer be available to treat patients on Medicaid. I am writing to you to express the impact that such an occurrence as this would have on my practice. As you are probably aware, Levaquin has been used very effectively to treat many of the patient types that I see in an attempt to avoid hospitalization and the use of expensive IV antibiotics. Of special interest is the use of Levaquin in patients with neutropenia with fever. This type of patient would likely require two oral antibiotics if we cannot use oral Levaquin therapy. If at all possible it would be deeply appreciated if could reconsider the decision to stop coverage for Levaquin. I am not aware of the actual difference in cost of Levaquin and (Avelox plus Septra DS) but when you look at the additional compliance issues and additional co-pay cost, Levaquin would be my first choice. Thank you kindly for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Billy Clowney, MD/mmg

1105 N. Lafayette Blvd. Suite A
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone (803)934-8833 Fax (803)934-0787



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Susan B. Bowling
Acting Director

October 20, 2008

Billy Clowney, MD
Santee Hematology Oncology
1105 N. Lafayette Blvd. Suite A
Sumter, SC 29150

Dear Dr. Clowney:

Thank you for corresponding regarding continued availability of Levaquin for treating SC Medicaid enrollees. Please be assured that you will still have Levaquin available for your patients when it is medically necessary for their care. The use of this drug will, however, require a brief prior authorization process since it is not on the SC Medicaid preferred drug list. The SC Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS] does not have a strict formulary by which some drugs are unavailable. Indeed, all FDA approved drugs are still available. DHHS asks, however, that physicians used drugs on the preferred list when possible.

I am asking one of my colleagues at the Agency to call you with further clarification. They can explain the prior approval process and how it can be expedited to minimize the inconvenience to you and your patients. If you have further difficulty please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for corresponding regarding this issue and for caring for SC Medicaid beneficiaries. If I can help further, please call me at 803-898-2580 or 803-255-3400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "O. Marion Burton".

O. Marion Burton, MD
Medical Director

cc: Jim Assey
Mike Blakely
Mary Roberts

Log #197

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

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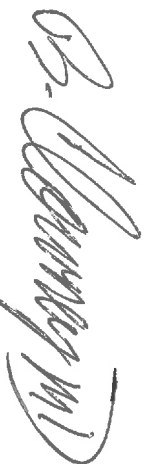
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