

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Follow-up

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>3-18-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000479</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>3-26-08</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>C. H. S. Feltner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<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.			

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1. LOG NUMBER <i>000479</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>3-26-08</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Ms. Foxman Closed 4/7/08, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <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.			
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3.			
4.			



**RECEIVED**

MAR 17 2008

## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**Kris Crawford**

District No. 63 - Florence County  
728 N. Grove Park Drive  
Florence, SC 29501

327-D Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 734-2992

**Committee:**

Judiciary

March 13, 2008

Ms. Emma Forkner  
Director Dept. of Health and Human Services  
P O Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

Dear Ms. Forkner:

I am writing to you with reference to resolving the issue of back transport of neonates to community hospitals. I have been kept up to date on this matter with Dr. Steven Bridges and was of the notion that this situation had been resolved and that the appropriate forms were already in place. Apparently this is not the current situation. Improving the quality of healthcare in our communities is a common goal we all desire and one that we should all collaborate on. The end result would not only free up beds in the NICU for other critical needs infants but would also use our resources and monies more effectively and efficiently.

To be clear this is a problem of how the "system" works and not a fault of the Department or any Medicaid HMO. Dr. Burton and I had discussed allowing the attending neonatologist to "certify" that the back transport was being done for bed utilization issues and that in that case, the child would stay on the FFS roles and not penalize the HMO for a resource utilization decision.

I am enclosing for your reference a copy of the correspondence on this matter from the McLeod Regional Medical Center. I appreciate your consideration in looking into this matter. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris Crawford".

Kris Crawford

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Steven Bridges  
Dr. Marion Burton  
Mr. Mike Jernigan

# McLeod

## Regional Medical Center

*The Choice for Medical Excellence.*

The Honorable Kris Crawford  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
327D Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Representative Crawford:

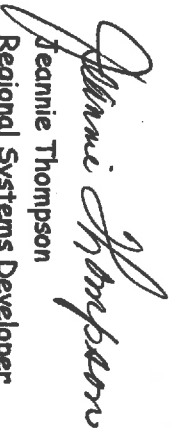
On behalf of the staff in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), especially Dr. Steve Bridges, at McLeod Regional Medical Center, I would like to thank you for your interest in resolving the problem of denial of back transport of neonates to community hospitals by Medicaid HMOs.

Back transport of convalescing neonates is a crucial step in the successful Perinatal Regionalization Program in South Carolina. It is important for infants to return to their home communities where they can be with families and providers. Back transport is a wise use of resources and money, and of course, frees up beds in the NICU for other critically ill infants.

As you know, denial of back transport of neonates by Medicaid HMOs has been a recurring problem since their implementation in South Carolina. We are forced to make repeated phone calls to seek approval for the transport, then have it denied. Often we are at maximum bed capacity, unable to accept incoming transports and forced to divert infants from the Pee Dee to other Regional Perinatal Centers in South Carolina and North Carolina. We are grateful that you are willing to address this problem with the Medicaid agency to achieve a solution

Please keep us posted of your progress and do not hesitate to call if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanne Thompson  
Regional Systems Developer  
Pee Dee Perinatal Region

Kris, forward to having this  
looking + not having to  
resolved + any more  
big you ~~good~~ = this

Thanks for helping  
2/5/08



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

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

April 7, 2008

The Honorable Kris Crawford  
Member, South Carolina House of Representatives  
728 North Grove Park Drive  
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Re: Back Transport of Neonates

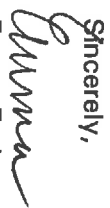
Dear Representative Crawford:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding denial of back transports and the effects on the health care system. We share your concerns and are committed to resolving this matter as expeditiously as possible. We also agree there is not one issue/party responsible for the challenges sometimes encountered.

As a first step, on March 20, 2008, we discussed with all MCOs currently contracted with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) the issue involving back transports of neonates. All MCOs were directed to accommodate requests for back transports to community hospitals when the transport will accomplish the goals of the Perinatal Regionalization Program in South Carolina. While there was confirmation from these groups to do so, there are additional extenuating circumstances that could potentially interrupt this procedure.

In addition, Dr. Marion Burton, Medical Director for SCDHHS, is contacting the hospital administrators from each of the Level II Perinatal Centers in the Pee Dee region to determine their willingness to participate/accept infants who may be in need of transfer. We will closely monitor this situation to ensure the continued cooperation of the South Carolina Medicaid MCOs and the hospitals so that we can maintain the integrity and success of the program.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,  
  
Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mhm

Log # 479  
✓