


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>12-20-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>1001269</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Checked 12/29/10, letter attached.</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-4-11</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.			



eacoast Pediatrics

CHRISTINE CANIVAN, M.D.

MEGHAN O. GEILS, M.D.

KELLY HAVIG-LIPKE, M.D.

ARLENE A. SHAWINSKY, M.D.

December 16, 2010

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2010

Director's Office
MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY
& BENEFICIARY SERVICES

Medical Director
Department of Health & Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: Discontinuation of Coverage for routine
circumcisions of newborn babies.

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a pediatrician in practice, I am appalled at your decision to discontinue coverage for the above services.

The determination of medical necessity for circumcision is hardly ever made in the newborn period. Should a circumcision be deemed necessary as for example in the case of a phimosis, the cost of the procedure, which would entail a general anesthetic and operating room time, would far supercede a relatively simple and local procedure.

My other concern is, that there is currently a huge push to get all males circumcised in parts of Africa in the fight against AIDS. There is documented evidence that circumcision may protect against this chronic disease, which again could cost the state millions of dollars.

I hereby strongly urge you to reconsider your decision, before we take this argument publicly.

Sincerely,

Arlene Shawinsky

Arlene A. Shawinsky, M.D., DCH, FAAP

AAS/sld

December 29, 2010



Arlene A. Shawinsky, M.D., DCH, FAAP
Seacoast Pediatrics
776 Daniel Ellis Drive, #2A
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Dr. Shawinsky:


Thank you for contacting the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) regarding discontinuation of coverage for routine circumcisions in newborn babies effective February 1, 2011.

SCDHHS has implemented numerous cost-savings initiatives during the past several years to help deal with the critical budget shortage that we are facing. In recent months, we have sought input from various Medicaid stakeholders about potential ways to reduce expenditures. Over 700 suggestions from providers, advocates and others were reviewed by our Executive Staff which includes our Medical Directors, Dr's. Marion Burton and Tan Platt.

Due to our expected budget deficit of \$228 million dollars this fiscal year, SCDHHS has had to make tough decisions for non-coverage of several optional services for adults, and at the same time, discontinue our reimbursement for routine newborn circumcisions.

We will continue to cover mandatory services while maintaining to the best of our ability, quality care and appropriate access for our recipients. For further assistance, please contact Ms. Melanie "Bz" Giese, Bureau Director for Health Services, at (803) 898-2868.

Sincerely,


Felicity Myers, Ph.D.
Deputy Director

FM/gm