


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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers/Burton</i>	DATE <i>2/24/09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100462</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>3-5-09</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 3/16/09, letter attached & </i>			

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

Coastal Cancer Center

*Committed...
Caring...
Compassionate...*

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A DIVISION OF ASSOCIATED MEDICAL SPECIALISTS, P.A.

RECEIVED

February 20, 2009

FEB 24 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Marion Burton
Director of Medical Services
Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Doctor Burton,

I am writing you today with great concern regarding Medicaid's current payment policy in the area of Nurse Practitioner billing. The current payment policy is inconsistent and we need your help.

Currently, Medicaid allows the Nurse Practitioners to supervise some services such as intravenous chemotherapy administration, (96411, 96413 and 96415), but will not allow NP's to supervise hydration administration (96360 and 96361), non-chemotherapy administration, whether by injection or infusion, (e.g. 96372 and 96375), or subcutaneous chemotherapy administration (96401 and 96402). Similarly, we are confused by Medicaid's allowance of white cell colony stimulating factor Neupogen, (J1440 or J1441) but not Neulasta, (J2505).

These services are covered by Medicare and they are within the South Carolina Nurse Practitioners Scope of Practice. The licensed NP's are qualified to perform and supervise these services, yet under your current payment policy, we can not bill.

I urge you to reconsider your current payment policy to allow Nurse Practitioners to supervise and/or perform and receive payment for services billed under the Nurse Practitioner. I believe this was an oversight and if we work together to get it corrected, Medicaid recipients will have greater access to care.

Respectfully,



Vijay Paudel, MD
Business Physician
Coastal Cancer Center

In collaboration with the Research and Educational Programs of Duke University Health System

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State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

March 16, 2009

Vijay Paudel, M.D.
Business Physician
Coastal Cancer Center
8121 Rourk Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572-4128

Dear Dr. Paudel,

Thank you for corresponding these Medicaid payment policy concerns. In reviewing this with my staff colleagues at the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) there may be some items that would benefit from clarification.

South Carolina Medicaid does cover codes 96360 and 96361 when those services involve a nurse practitioner. In any particular case, it could be that the drug that is being billed along side of one of these codes already has this administrative work included in the drug code itself. It would, therefore, not pay separately. It would be helpful if you could forward to me a couple of specific examples of these codes being rejected for payment so I can ask our staff to look into this matter look into this matter for you. In addition, procedure code 96372 was recently established as a covered code in the SC Medicaid Program effective February 2, 2009. CPT code 96375 is also a covered code.

In further reviewing your concerns, codes 96401 and 96402 are not covered at this time. SCDHHS will undertake a review of this and determine if it is feasible to include them as covered codes. My initial review indicates that they probably should be covered for SC Medicaid beneficiaries.

Finally, J Code, J2505, is currently covered by SC Medicaid for physicians but not nurse practitioners. As you indicated, J1440 and J1441 are indeed reimbursable.

Log #462

ViJay Paudel, M.D.

March 16, 2009

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Thank you for calling these issues to our attention. I am pleased to report that CPT code 96372 and 96375 are indeed covered by our program. Also, I will look into whether we can load codes 96401 and 96402 into our payment system. Meanwhile, if you could share with us several examples of non payment for 96360 and 96361, we could look into the specifics as to why you were not paid for these.

Thank you again for raising these excellent points and for providing care to SC Medicaid beneficiaries. If you would like to discuss this further, please call me at 803-255-3400 or 803-898-2580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marion Burton".

O. Marion Burton, M.D.
Medical Director

OMB/mk

cc: Valerie Williams
William Feagin