


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>10-31-07</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <b>000230</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>11-7-07</i>	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>Claudia 11/8/07, 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.	<i>B-</i>		
2.			<i>Can you help me w/ some language to send in or from HHS? I have several HHS requests</i>
3.			
4.			

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2007

October 10, 2007

Referred to Burns

Governor Mark Sanford  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 12267  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Sanford,

My child, Gillen Adam Velkovich, currently receives physical therapy at Touchstone Therapy in Pineville, NC. We are fortunate to have a pediatric clinic to take my child to so he is able to receive this therapy because there are not many providers available who accept South Carolina Medicaid.

However, due to the low reimbursement rates, Touchstone Therapy may no longer be able to continue providing my child with this necessary therapy. The South Carolina Medicaid rate is *half* of the reimbursable rate from North Carolina Medicaid. This makes it difficult for a therapy provider to cover their costs and continue to provide exceptional care to my child.

Unless the South Carolina Medicaid rates for occupational, physical and speech therapy are increased within the next 90 days, Touchstone Therapy will have no choice but to discontinue their provider status with South Carolina Medicaid. If Touchstone Therapy is no longer a provider for South Carolina Medicaid, I will have no where to take my child for therapy.

I need your assistance in facilitating a *rapid* change in the reimbursement rate for pediatric therapy services by South Carolina Medicaid. If this does not happen, my child will risk losing the progress he has made and it will limit his ability to make further gains. This will not only affect him and other children with special needs, but the rest of our country's population as these children who may become contributable taxpaying members of society as a result of receiving these necessary therapies now, will instead become a financial burden to taxpayers and the economy as a whole.

Please act *now* to help my child as well as other families in South Carolina who have a child with special needs. I appreciate your immediate attention to and action on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Allyson Velkovich*

Allyson Velkovich

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2007

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

717213



State of South Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford  
Governor

November 8, 2007

Emma Forkner  
Director

Ms. Allyson Velkovich  
1370 Colwick Lane  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732

Dear Ms. Velkovich:

Thank you for your recent letter of October 10, 2007 to Governor Sanford, regarding your concerns about South Carolina Medicaid's reimbursement rate for our Private Rehabilitative Therapy providers. The Governor has forwarded your letter to my attention and asked that I respond on his behalf.

Rate changes in any program involving federal funding requires approval from the federal government, in this case, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We have been working with the CMS Regional Office regarding our state's proposed rate increases for quite some time and we have just recently received approval of the new rates. Each state's rates are based on population, demographics, socioeconomic needs and the ability to pay the state match. Therefore, rates and services vary from state to state. We will be issuing a Medicaid Bulletin to all Rehabilitative Therapy service providers advising them of this rate increase.

Should Touchtone Therapy elect to withdraw as a provider with South Carolina Medicaid, I can assure you that we will find another provider that will offer the same type of services your son currently receives. It is my hope that our efforts to increase the reimbursement rates for therapy providers will keep Touchtone Therapy from considering withdrawal from South Carolina Medicaid. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact, Dr. James Bradford, Team Leader for School Based and Private Rehabilitative Therapy and Audiological Services at (803) 898-2655. Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mhw

Log # 230



State of South Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford  
Governor

November 8, 2007

Emma Forkner  
Director

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1370 Colwick Lane  
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Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mhw

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