

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese</i>	DATE <i>8-1-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>1010660</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>8-8-11</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>CC: Mr. Keck</i> <i>Cleared 8/16/11, 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.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



FAX COVER SHEET

**S.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MEDICAL, MILITARY, PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FAX # (803) 734-4785**

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2011

DATE: July 29, 2011
TO: Mr. Anthony E. Keck
FROM: Leon Howard via Ava Brumfield
FAX NUMBER: 803-255-8235
PHONE NUMBER: 803-898-2504
PAGES: 1 Of 2 (Including This Page)
MESSAGE:

**Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE PAGES INDICATED, PLEASE CONTACT
THE MEDICAL, MILITARY, PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AT (803) 734-3046.**

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South Carolina House of Representatives

P.O. Box 11867

Telephone: (803) 734-3046 • Fax: (803) 734-4785

Columbia, S.C. 29211

Room 425, Blatt Building

July 29, 2011

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AUG 01 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Anthony E. Keck, Director
S. C. Department of Health
and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. Keck:

Several diabetes advocacy groups have contacted my office and has brought to my attention that on August 3, 2011, the South Carolina Medicaid Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee will meet to review and determine which medications will be on the preferred drug list. We are very interested in the outcome of the Committee's review of insulin. We encourage you to oppose any decision to restrict patient access to insulin.

As you know, uncontrolled or undermanaged diabetes can lead to many complications including blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes and amputations. We also know that diabetic patients need to have access to the type of insulin that works best for them. Furthermore, we believe that restricting access to insulin for patients with diabetes will increase health care costs, a proposition we cannot afford.

The share of South Carolina's population with diabetes ranks in the top ten when compared to other states across the country. Because of this fact, we should be in the business of removing barriers to treatment as opposed to restricting treatment options. South Carolinians with diabetes can live long, healthy lives when they have access to insulin and when their diabetes is properly managed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leon Howard".

Leon Howard

cc: James Assey, Physician Services, DHHS



August 16, 2011

The Honorable Leon Howard
South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Howard:

Thank you for your letter regarding the concerns of your constituents and the review of insulin products on the Preferred Drug List.

The South Carolina Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T) met on August 3, 2011, and endorsed the request of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to expand the number of preferred insulin items available to patients without Prior Authorization (PA). This change, which should go into effect in September, will increase the number of initial treatment options available for diabetic patients and their physicians, and in doing so, ensures that South Carolina's Medicaid beneficiaries have access to the wide array of insulin products currently on the market.

We appreciate your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Ms. Melanie "BZ" Giese, Deputy Director of Medical and Managed Care Services at (803) 898-0176.

Sincerely,



Anthony E. Keck
Director

AK/gws

To - TB
8/11

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese / Williams</i>	DATE <i>8-1-11</i>
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