

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Bowling</i>	<i>9-20-06</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	<i>000256</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<i>Cleared 10/2/06, letter attached.</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>9-29-06</i> 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.			

*Dog - Barkin*  
*"Approp. Steps"*



**NEXTSTEP**  
WOUND HEALING CENTER  
A member of the Georgetown Hospital Family

**RECEIVED**

**RECEIVED**

SEP 19 2006

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

September 14, 2006

MEDICAL SERVICES  
DHHS

Olin M. Burton, MD  
Medical Director  
SC Department of Health and Human Services  
PO 8206  
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Marion,

Thanks very much for your kind letter of September 12,2006. We'll get going on Shirley!

Let me bring another case to your attention. Kathleen A. Schipper, Medicaid SC #2780386324, is an unfortunate 40 year old Type I diabetic, already a left BK amputee, with an open non-healing ulcer on her right foot.

We are working through the National Healing Wound Center which is now associated with Georgetown Hospital System. We have the capability of hyperbaric oxygen, and Kathleen desperately needs to be treated here. It would be terrible to see her 41 and a double amputee, and it would also be a significant drain on SC Medicaid. Is there any way we can get a waiver to treat this patient? Currently South Carolina Medicaid does not fund hyperbaric treatments.

We have a rigid protocol for hyperbaric candidacy. And after 20 treatments, we must document significant wound improvement, before hyperbaric therapy is continued.

Several other Medicaid recipients in our area are candidates for hyperbaric treatment. This therapy is available in many states' Medicaid systems. May we visit, or revisit, the possibility of South Carolina Medicaid funding appropriate hyperbaric therapy?

Thanks again!

Best,

*Marion*  
A. Mason Ahearn, MD FACS

cc: Robert Bartlett, MD  
Matthew Metz, MD

*marion*  
① Log -  
② Log is to Zenoia & Val  
③ Please put original log back in my desk folder.



State of South Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services

Log #256

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

October 2, 2006

A. Mason Ahearn, MD FACS  
Nextstep Wound Healing Center  
4033 Hwy. 17 Bypass, Suite 107  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Dear Mason,

Thank you for corresponding regarding Ms. Schipper. I have not had any recent experience with reviewing request for payment relating to hyperbaric therapy. I will review this with the appropriate professional staff at DHHS and we will be getting back with you. I am uncertain of their current policy or the ability for a medical consultant such as me to allow deviations from existing policy or guidelines. I will certainly make every effort to find a solution.

If there is current South Carolina Medicaid policy relating to payment approvals for hyperbaric therapy, we just need to make certain that this particular patient fits those criteria. From the content of your letter, I think that she will be a good candidate for this treatment. If current SC Medicaid policy does not allow for hyperbaric oxygen therapy, I will inquire as to whether an exception to policy is allowed in these circumstances for medical necessity. In either case I will get back to you with more specifics.

I hope that we will be able to see you in the not too distant future. Tell Rita hello for us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "O. Marion Burton".

O. Marion Burton, MD  
Medical Director

OMB/bk