A Message to

Business Office Managers

8000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 333, Mt. Laurel N.J. 08054

Memorandum

TO: Directors of Outpatient Admissions and Business Office Managers at AmeriHealth Participating Hospitals in New Jersey

FROM: Kathleen Mariano
Manager, Provider Relations

DATE: **December 15, 2003**

RE: **Change in Outpatient Diagnostic Imaging Services**

AmeriHealth has partnered with American Imaging Management, Inc. (AIM) to implement a new Radiology Quality Initiative (RQI) for outpatient diagnostic imaging services for New Jersey AmeriHealth members. This program will help ensure the clinical appropriateness of radiology testing and minimize unnecessary radiation exposure. AIM is a medical resource management company with national experience in Utilization Review and Quality Improvement in the field of diagnostic imaging. You may have already interacted with AIM for other payers in the area.

The RQI ensures that:

- The most appropriate diagnostic imaging exam is ordered for the diagnosis in question, and
- Studies are performed in the proper sequence.

AmeriHealth-NJ will implement the following changes to the Quality Management of outpatient diagnostic imaging services for AmeriHealth New Jersey HMO, POS, PPO, CMM, and Medicare members. The program applies only to AmeriHealth-NJ business. This program does NOT apply to members of AmeriHealth affiliates in PA and DE. In early 2004, New Jersey AmeriHealth members will receive new ID cards with AIM's contact information on the reverse side. The member should also know if they are covered by AmeriHealth-NJ.

Effective for dates of service on or after February 1, 2004, compliance with the AmeriHealth-NJ AIM Radiology Quality Initiative will be required for the non-therapeutic or interventional imaging services listed below when performed in an office, outpatient hospital (excluding emergent and inpatient services), or free-standing imaging center.

Ordering physicians for New Jersey AmeriHealth members must contact AIM to obtain an RQI number for the following outpatient, non-emergent services:

- **CT**
- **MRI**
- **MRA**
- **Nuclear Cardiac studies**
- **PET scans** (Note: the AIM RQI process will satisfy the existing precertification requirement for New Jersey AmeriHealth members.)

A PCP referral will no longer be required for New Jersey AmeriHealth members receiving these tests. The ordering physicians have been educated to record the RQI number on the prescription. Performing providers should document the RQI number on claims submissions. Hospitals and freestanding facilities that perform these imaging services cannot obtain an RQI number.

Special Note Regarding PET Scans: Please note that PET Scans have and will continue to require precertification for AmeriHealth-NJ and all other AmeriHealth affiliates. For New Jersey AmeriHealth members, the RQI process will fulfill the precertification requirement.
For members of AmeriHealth affiliates in PA and DE, the ordering physician should continue to contact the affiliate for precertification.

AIM will begin accepting requests on January 15, 2004 for dates of service beginning February 1, 2004. Performing providers can confirm RQI numbers by calling AIM's Radiology Quality Initiative call center at (800) 859-5288. Performing providers can also confirm via NaviNet that an RQI number was issued. Providers may access AIM's clinical guidelines and other educational resources by selecting the AIM link on NaviNet.

For questions regarding the AIM program, please call AIM's Customer Service Department at (800) 859-5288 Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your Hospital Coordinator or Provider Relations at 856-778-6500.