A Message to

Business Office Managers

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Outpatient Therapy Departments of AmeriHealth Participating Hospitals in New Jersey

FROM: Kathleen Mariano
Manager, Provider Relations

DATE: July 10, 2003

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF PHYSICAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND HAND THERAPY PRECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

AmeriHealth has evaluated the review process for physical, occupational and hand therapy. Based on this assessment, **effective August 1, 2003,** AmeriHealth will no longer require initial or extension certification review for these services for our members with PPO coverage. After August 1st, AmeriHealth will focus its review activities exclusively on retrospective review of paid claims, conducting reviews and audits of services provided to our members.

PLEASE NOTE: Precertification continues to be required for speech therapy and lymphadema therapy.

The change in the certification process will not impact current benefit coverage limits, existing contractual exclusions, or current referral requirements. **A PCP referral to the designated site will still be required for physical therapy services for members with HMO coverage.**

Please share this information with the appropriate members of your hospital's staff. If you have any questions about this bulletin, please contact your Hospital Service Coordinator or the Hospital Services Department at 856-778-6500.

Cc: Business Office Manager