A Message to

Business Office Managers

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators of AmeriHealth Participating Skilled Nursing Facilities in New Jersey

FROM: Kathleen Mariano
Manager, Provider Relations

DATE: November 21, 2003

SUBJECT: **SKILLED NURSING SERVICES: NOTIFICATION OF DENIALS FOR NON-SKILLED DAYS**

The following information applies to all AmeriHealth managed care plans, including AmeriHealth Personal Choice, AmeriHealth 65, and AmeriHealth Point of Service.

Under the terms of your contract for skilled nursing services with AmeriHealth, only days that are determined to be Medically Necessary by AmeriHealth are eligible for payment by AmeriHealth. By this Bulletin we are reminding all contracted skilled nursing facilities that days in which no skilled level of services are provided are not eligible for payment and will be denied. Members may not be billed in these cases until a notice of non-coverage has been rendered and signed.

All participating skilled nursing facility providers are expected to begin discharge planning on admission by communicating the estimated discharge date and goals to the AmeriHealth care coordinator and all participating therapists/nursing staff to avoid unnecessary delay days. Providers are also expected to provide concurrent review data on the day of the next review as previously established, and to notify AmeriHealth if the level of care has changed to custodial prior to the next review date.

Additionally, custodial care provided to members is not a covered service eligible for payment by AmeriHealth or the member. Under the terms of your contract, your facility may not bill Non-Covered Services to a member unless the facility: (1) gives advance written notice to the member that the services to be provided are not covered by their health coverage plan, and (2) obtains a written acknowledgment to that effect and an agreement from the member to assume financial responsibility for such Non-Covered Services.

To assist your facility when members are admitted at custodial level of services, which are Non-Covered Services, AmeriHealth has developed the attached "Notice of Noncoverage of Custodial Care" for your use. We recommend that your facility provide this form upon custodial admission and whenever a member is transferred to the custodial care setting.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Linda Snyder at 215-241-4633.

Attachments