A Message to

Business Office Managers

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

Memorandum

TO: Business Office Managers at Participating AmeriHealth Hospitals in New Jersey

FROM: Kathleen Mariano
Manager, Provider Relations

DATE: April 1, 2004

SUBJECT: **Procedure Coding for Hospital Outpatient Claims**

This is a follow up to an AmeriHealth Hospital Bulletin issued in December 2003 (ICD-9 Procedure Codes Prohibited on Outpatient Claims). That Bulletin emphasized the fact that the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code set is adopted federal standard for coding all outpatient services, including procedure codes.

It is AmeriHealth's understanding that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continue to permit providers to report procedure codes using HCPCS coding or ICD-9 coding, at the providers' discretion for the time being. Consequently, AmeriHealth will continue to accept both ICD-9 CM and HCPCS procedure codes reported on outpatient claims until further notice.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your Hospital Coordinator.