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AmeriHealth

A message to
Business Office Managers

Bulletin No. 03-09

TO: AmeriHealth participating hospitals in Pennsylvania and Delaware

FROM: Christopher McTiernan
Senior Director, Provider Reimbursement

DATE: May 8, 2009

SUBJECT: **STAT laboratory policy change – Rapid influenza test**

We are sending this bulletin to inform you of a *temporary* change to the STAT laboratory policy. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your Network Coordinator.

CLAIMS PAYMENT POLICY CHANGE FOR COVERAGE OF RAPID INFLUENZA TESTS

Rapid influenza diagnostic tests can help in the diagnosis and management of patients with signs and symptoms compatible with H1N1 (swine-origin) influenza A. For this reason, effective April 27, 2009, we have added the codes below to Policy #00.01.41: STAT Laboratory Tests Performed in the Outpatient Hospital Setting for Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) and Point of Service (POS) Products.

CPT® code	Description
87400	Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay technique, qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple-step method; Influenza, A or B, each
87804	Infectious agent antigen detection by immunoassay with direct optical observation; Influenza

This policy change is being made on a *temporary* basis and will remain in place until further notice. This change affects HMO/POS members only, as the STAT laboratory policy does not apply to PPO members.

Due to the retroactive nature of this change, claims with dates of service on or after April 27, 2009, may be denied for lack of precertification. During the month of June, we will proactively identify and reprocess any applicable claim denials back to the April 27, 2009, effective date.

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We encourage you to share this information with appropriate members of your staff.