



MEMORANDUM

TO: **All Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Diagnostic Imaging Facilities**
FROM: **EDS and NH Medicaid**
DATE: **December 2008**
SUBJECT: **Prior Authorizations for Non-Emergent Diagnostic Imaging**

Effective **January 1, 2009**, all Medicaid prior authorizations for non-emergent diagnostic imaging studies, including non-emergent computerized tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), magnetic resonance angiography (MRA), positive emission tomography (PET), and nuclear cardiology, will be completed by the existing NH Medicaid Prior Authorization Unit, administered by Schaller Anderson Medical Administrators, Incorporated. Schaller Anderson (SA) currently performs all other non-pharmaceutical prior authorizations for the Medicaid program.

With the inclusion of diagnostic imaging, all other operations of the Prior Authorization Program will remain unchanged except for the following process improvements: the NH Medicaid Prior Authorization Unit will review *all* requests for prior authorization for imaging studies for recipients who do not have Medicare Part B coverage as well as for those recipients who are on the In and Out Program. State Office staff will no longer review these requests retrospectively. The NH Medicaid Prior Authorization Unit will review requests for recipients who, at the time of their imaging study, had Medicaid pending retrospectively.

As before, prior authorizations are **not** required for imaging performed as part of a hospital emergency department visit, an inpatient hospitalization, or if concurrent with, or on the same day as, an urgent care facility visit. The professional component of interpretation of the procedure does **not** require prior authorization. Requests for dual eligibles, i.e., those with Medicare Part A and B, are **not** subject to prior authorization. You may continue to submit prior authorization requests through several routes including the SA toll free telephone or toll free fax (see attached). Requests will be reviewed and decisions rendered within two-business day of receipt of complete information.

Outpatient Radiology Prior Authorization Procedures and the Prior Authorization for Diagnostic Imaging Request Form 272X have been included with this mailing. Forms may also be found on the EDS, DHHS and Schaller Anderson websites (see attached). If you have any questions, please contact Jane Hybsch, RN, Administrator, Medicaid Medical Services Unit, at 1-800-852-3345, ext. 0275, or (603) 271-0275.

We thank you for your continued contributions to the New Hampshire Medicaid Program and greatly appreciate your participation in these necessary cost savings strategies.