



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES**

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Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Janie Miller
Secretary

Elizabeth A. Johnson
Commissioner

September 7, 2009

TO: EPSDT Providers PT (45) Provider Letter A-15

RE: Prior Authorization Process for Private Duty Nursing (PDN) Services

Dear Kentucky Medicaid Provider:

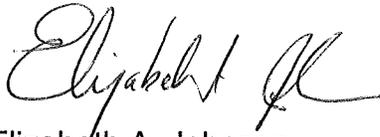
Based on comments from providers, the Department for Medicaid Services reviewed the procedures regarding the Prior Authorization (PA) process for Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services through the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. The current PA process involves an initial pending approval letter. This pending letter states that one unit of service at \$1 has been approved. In order to file claims, providers must report the actual number of units and dollars utilized in the provision of services and the PA is updated in the system which results in another letter being generated for the actual amount used.

In order to promote efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts, DMS has decided to adopt a more operable PA process for PDN provided through the EPSDT program. Therefore, the pending units and subsequent letter process is being eliminated. Beginning October 1, 2009 EPSDT providers will provide an estimate of the number of hours and units they anticipate using for PDN services upon the initial call to SHPS. A PA letter will then be generated with the anticipated amount of units necessary. Providers will not need to call back with actual number of units utilized. If the requested number of units is not sufficient, providers will need to request an additional PA.

Please remember that all EPSDT Special Services must be prior authorized through SHPS, Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), by contacting 1-800-292-2392.

We hope this process change improves the current PA request. If you have any questions about this process change, please contact the Division of Provider Operations, Specialty Services Branch at (502) 564-6890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Johnson".

Elizabeth A. Johnson
Commissioner

EAJ/RDD/LL/vlp00831