

TO: Chief Executive Officer - Hospitals

APPLICABLE TO: Acute Care (General) Hospitals ONLY

SUBJECT: Second Surgical Opinion Program

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To inform hospitals of the requirements for a Second Surgical Opinion for certain elective surgical procedures. A Second Surgical Opinion is not required for the following procedures:

1. All surgical procedures related to cholecystectomy;
2. Hernia repairs for recipients under 19 years of age;
3. Primary adenoidectomy for children under 12 years of age; and
4. Spinal fusion and laminectomy for scoliosis for recipients under 19 years of age.

It should be emphasized that the requirement for Second Surgical Opinion is waived when the operating physician determines that the need for surgery is urgent or emergent. For Second Opinion purposes, "urgent or emergent" means that a delay in surgery to comply with the protocol of the Second Surgical Opinion Program would result in a significant threat to the patient's health or life.

To facilitate reimbursement in instances where the surgery meets the "urgent/emergent" definition, the hospital must attach to the claim form, a statement from the operating physician attesting to the urgent/emergent nature of the illness or situation. (See previous Newsletters, P-329/BC-229 (3/22/82) and P-339/BC-237 (10/4/82).

The hospital must obtain from the operating physician a copy of the Medicaid Second Opinion Referral Form (FD-263)(9/91) and attach it to the hospital's claim form when submitting claims for reimbursement.

ACTION: The following ICD-9-CM codes do require a Second Surgical Opinion:

A. Hysterectomy (Elective Procedures)

68.3  
68.4  
68.5

B. Spinal fusion \*

81.0	81.03	81.07
81.00	81.04	81.08
81.01	81.05	81.09
81.02	81.06	

\*NOTE: A Second Surgical Opinion is NOT required for spinal fusion if the recipient is under 19 years of age and has a diagnosis of scoliosis.

C. Laminectomy \*

03.09	80.51
80.5	80.52
80.50	80.59

\*NOTE: A Second Surgical Opinion is NOT required for laminectomies if the recipient is under 19 years of age and has a diagnosis of scoliosis.

D. Hernia Repair (Unilateral or Bilateral including umbilical hernia for recipients, 19 years of age or older)

53.0	53.1	53.17	53.41
53.00	53.10	53.2	53.49
53.01	53.11	53.21	53.5
53.02	53.12	53.29	53.51
53.03	53.13	53.3	53.59
53.04	53.14	53.31	53.6
53.05	53.15	53.39	53.61
	53.16	53.4	53.69

E. Tonsillectomy/Adenoidectomy

28.2	28.5
28.3	28.6 (12 years of age or older)

Information or questions should be directed to Paramax/Unisys, the Medicaid Fiscal Agent, at the Second Opinion Referral Center at 1-800-676-6562.

