

TO: Hospice Agencies

SUBJECT: AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program (ACCAP) -  
Elimination of Prior Authorization for Hospice Services

EFFECTIVE: November 1, 1992

PURPOSE: To notify hospice agencies of the elimination of the require-  
ment for prior authorization of hospice services provided to  
Medicaid recipients under the AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program (ACCAP).

BACKGROUND: The New Jersey Medicaid program required that hospice  
services provided by hospice agencies to Medicaid recipients  
under the AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program (ACCAP) be prior authorized  
by the Medicaid District Office (MDO). (Refer to Newsletter, P-657, October 15,  
1990).

ACTION: The New Jersey Medicaid program no longer requires that  
hospice agencies obtain prior authorization for hospice  
services provided to Medicaid recipients under the AIDS Community Care  
Alternatives Program (ACCAP). The submission of the prior authorization form  
(FD-353) to the MDO is no longer required.

However, prior to initiating hospice services to a Medicaid recipient under  
ACCAP, the hospice agency must contact the recipient's ACCAP case manager to  
determine if services can be provided under the ACCAP service plan and within  
the ACCAP service cost "cap". In most instances, the initial request for  
services will be made by the ACCAP case manager since the service must be part  
of the recipient's service plan.

This change in policy for ACCAP hospice services, described in the Home Care  
Services Manual (10:60-3.15 (a) 7), will now conform to the hospice policy  
stated in the Hospice Services Manual (10:53A) wherein hospice services do not  
require prior authorization by the New Jersey Medicaid program. This revision  
allows hospice services to be provided to all Medicaid recipients without prior  
authorization.

Paramax/Unisys has been notified of the elimination of prior authorization of ACCAP hospice services. Therefore, a prior authorization number is no longer required on the 1500 N.J. claim form when submitting claims for the HCPCS procedure code Z 1810 - Hospice, daily.

For further information, please contact Carol Kurland, Administrator, Office of Home Care Programs, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, (609)-588-2620.

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(BLUE TAB MARKED "5")