



## **Important News - IPA Referral Process Update**

### **Notifications Waived**

Effective July 1, 2006, CMO will eliminate the requirement for referral notifications for most specialty services for referrals within the IPA network. Claims payment will not be impacted by this change. Your office will no longer be required to enter notifications in CareLink, submit paper referral forms, or phone referral notifications to CMO Medical Management.

- **Providers who refer patients outside of the IPA network will still be required to follow the patient's health plan referral guidelines.**
- **AETNA Self Insured members are not managed by CMO. Health services for these enrollees require that referrals be submitted to the health plans as per AETNA guidelines.**

### **Prior-Authorizations Required**

In order to ensure that IPA members receive services covered under their current health insurance benefits, CMO will continue to require that authorizations be requested for the following services:

- **Admissions (Elective/Emergent)**
  - Emergent admissions require 48-hour notification
  - Elective admissions require prior-authorization
- **Bariatric Surgery**
- **Durable Medical Equipment (DME)**
- **Home Health Care – including Home Infusion Therapy**
- **Infertility workup and treatment**
- **Plastic/Cosmetic Surgery including, but not limited to**
  - Mohs Micrographic Surgery
  - Septoplasty
  - Ligation and stripping of varicose veins
- **Rehabilitation/Physical/Speech/Occupational Therapy**
- **Hyperbaric Treatments**
- **Transportation for all non-emergency services**
- **All referrals to out-of-network providers**
  - Referrals of any kind outside the member's health plan network require prior authorization.

### **Prior authorization for Podiatry services is not required.**

Claims for Podiatry will be processed according to the member's benefit.

For **Behavioral Health** referrals, including HealthFirst, call UBA at 800-401-4822

For **HIP Behavioral Health** call 800-447-2526

**Please Note:** Provider offices may still require that their patients provide a referral form. Please be prepared to accommodate your patients in these instances. The CMO Referral Form may be used as a courtesy to your patients and the Consulting Physicians to communicate written requests for specialty services. Please do not submit this referral form to CMO.