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October 1, 2007

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER - Governor RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG - Director

MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE MA07-19

TO:

All Healthy Connections Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and

All Anesthesia, Laboratory, Pathology, Radiology and Immunization

Providers

FROM:

Leslie M. Clement, Administrator

SUBJECT:

Removal of Requirement for Healthy Connections Referral for Select Services

Earlier this year, a survey was conducted in response to requests from Healthy Connections PCPs for the Department to reconsider requiring a Healthy Connections referral for some services. In the survey, PCPs were asked if removing the requirement from select services would compromise the PCP's ability to manage their patients' care. Although some PCPs did express a concern, the majority (86%) did not feel that removing the referral requirement would compromise patient care.

Therefore, effective April 1, 2007, the Healthy Connections referral requirement is removed for the following procedures:

- All anesthesia services with CPT codes 00100-01999
- All radiology services with CPT codes 70010-79999
- All pathology and laboratory services with CPT codes 80048-89330
- All immunizations with CPT codes 90476-90749 not already exempt from referral

We are pleased to make this change in collaboration with our PCPs' advice and to support the Department's efforts to simplify the Idaho Medicaid program. Should you have questions, please contact Ms. Robin Pewtress at (208) 364-1892 or pewtresr@dhw.idaho.gov. This information is in addendum to Sections 1, 3 and 6 of the provider handbook.

Thank you for working with us to deliver quality health care to the citizens of Idaho!