



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA \* DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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**ISSUE DATE:**  
January 30, 2004

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**  
January 30, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Change in Procedure Regarding Attending Physicians  
Participating in Teleconferences

**BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Feinberg".

David S. Feinberg  
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Bulletin is to notify applicable providers of the change in procedure regarding an attending physician participating in a utilization review teleconference.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** The Department of Public Welfare's new claims processing system, PROMISe™, is scheduled to be implemented on March 1, 2004. PROMISe™ will not accept claims that are not compliant with the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements related to the submission of electronic claims in a standard format. Providers that have not become HIPAA certified by submitting a test file in the HIPAA format need to take steps to begin this process immediately. Information on the new formats is available at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/hipaa/omaphipaa.asp](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/hipaa/omaphipaa.asp) or by calling 1-800-248-2152.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all acute care general hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, rehabilitation units of general acute care hospitals, private psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric units of general acute care hospitals and extended acute care psychiatric care units enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program which provide services through the Fee-For-Service delivery system.

**BACKGROUND:**

In an effort to ease the administrative and personnel burden on hospitals, the Department of Public Welfare (Department) has determined that it is acceptable for attending physicians to participate in teleconferences between the Department's physician reviewer and the utilization review chairperson regarding hospital admissions or continued hospitalizations, if the hospital's utilization review chairperson deems this participation as appropriate. This change is intended to facilitate prompt and accurate decision making during these teleconferences.

**PROCEDURE:**

Effective immediately, the attending physician may participate in the Department's teleconference with the hospital's utilization review

chairperson.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).