



December 15, 2011

Dear Home Health Care Agency:

I am sending this letter to you as notice of changes to prior authorizations that go into effect plan-wide January 1, 2012. The list of services requiring prior authorization is contained in Chapter 5 of the UCare Provider Manual located at www.ucare.org/providers and will be published shortly before January 1, 2012.

The most significant changes are the prior authorization thresholds for home health care (skilled nursing visits, home health aides, private duty nursing), therapies (occupational, physical, speech), and rental requirements for BiPAP and CPAP equipment. Provided below is a brief description of these changes.

Prior Authorization Changes:

- Home Health Care, Skilled Nursing Care, Home Health Aides: Prior authorization is required before the 9th date of service. Visits 1-8 do not require prior authorization; however, each visit **must** meet medical necessity criteria.
- Private Duty Nursing: Prior authorization is required before the 9th date of service. Visits 1-8 do not require prior authorization; however, each visit **must** meet medical necessity criteria.
- Therapies (OT/PT/ST): Prior authorization is required before the 4th date of service for each therapy type. Visits 1-3 do not require prior authorization; however, each visit **must** meet medical necessity criteria.
- DME Rental: BiPAP and CPAP devices will require prior authorization for rental equipment prior to the 5th month and will no longer be eligible for first month purchase.

With the upcoming transition of many State Public Program recipients and individuals with disabilities into managed care, we request providers contact our Clinical Intake Department to inform us of any pre – existing prior authorizations that carry over into 2012. Clinical Intake can be reached at **612-676-6705** and **1-877-447-4384** (toll free) or by fax **612-884-2499** and **1-866-610-7215**.

UCare will evaluate the above changes throughout the year and appreciates feedback at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russel Kuzel, M.D., M.M.M."

Russel Kuzel, MD, M.M.M.
Sr. Vice President & Chief Medical Officer