

«date»

«Name»

«Street»

«City», «State» «ZipCd» «MaxOfZipPls4»

Re: National Imaging Accreditation Program Implementation Date Extended

Dear «Name»,

As you know, UnitedHealthcare desires to support improved quality in imaging studies by advancing professional society initiated accreditation. Further, we believe the criteria and processes defined by the profession itself should shape the approach for improved quality and appropriateness in clinical medicine. As such, we previously announced that as of March 1, 2008, we would implement a national quality initiative that recognizes the standards of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). The program enlists their expertise in facilitating imaging accreditation, which helps bring equipment, technologists and physicians in compliance with appropriate performance standards for certain imaging procedures.

Constructive and collegial feedback from physicians in our network has prompted us to extend the opportunity for facility accreditation until the third quarter of 2008. Our goal was to get as many physicians and facilities accredited as quickly as possible; however, we understand that some facilities will require more time to initiate and complete the process.

For those physicians and facilities that have already received accreditation, be aware that we have begun incorporating this data into our consumer information and decision-support infrastructure. We very much appreciate the efforts of the "early-adopters" who have taken the steps necessary to meet the criteria defined by their peers.

Once the Imaging Accreditation Program is implemented, UnitedHealthcare will require outpatient imaging sites and providers that bill on a 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (HICF) or its electronic equivalent, and perform any of the following procedures – CT, CTA, MRI, MRA, PET, nuclear medicine/cardiology and echocardiography – to have completed and submitted the application to obtain accreditation as a condition for reimbursement. (Currently, this program does not apply to members enrolled in benefit plans sponsored by Oxford Health Plans, PacifiCare, MAMSI, Options PPO, Neighborhood Health Plan or to members enrolled in government programs such as AmeriChoice, Ovations, SecureHorizons, EverCare or Medicare Advantage.) We will notify you a minimum of 30 days before this requirement becomes effective in your area, or as otherwise required by regulation.

Additional information about the imaging accreditation initiative, including frequently asked questions, is available online at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Clinician Resources > Radiology > Imaging Accreditation.

We appreciate our relationship with you and look forward to working together to improve the quality of imaging services available to consumers. If you have any questions about the Imaging Accreditation Program, or have suggestions on how we can assist you more effectively, please contact your UnitedHealthcare network account manager, call 1-800-637-5792 or e-mail radiology@customerrelation.com.

Sincerely,



Laurie Paidosh
Vice President
Radiology Programs
UnitedHealth Networks



Sam Ho, M.D.
Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer
Commercial Markets Group
UnitedHealthcare

RAD IA EL02 011808

Please do not reply to this return address. This P.O. Box is used for outbound mail only and we are not able to respond to messages sent to this address. Questions or comments? Write to us at UnitedHealthcare, MN012-N108, P.O. Box 1459, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1459.