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March 30, 2007

Senator Patricia Torres Ray
 State Capitol
 St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Cy Thao
 State Office Building
 St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Amino acid based formula coverage

Dear Senator Torres Ray and Representative Thao:

I am pleased to provide you with the letters from various health plans' medical directors about each health plan's decision to modify its medical policy in conformance with the language in SF 504 and HF 529 as amended. Five of the health plans have provided individual letters: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota/Blue Plus (BCBSM), HealthPartners, Medica, PreferredOne, and Sanford Health Plan.

Two of the health plans, UCare Minnesota and Metropolitan Health Plan, serve only public health care program enrollees. In lieu of a letter from these two plans, I am attaching a copy of the language from the DHS manual that prescribes how these types of formulas are covered for persons by public health care programs. In fact, as a condition of having a contract with DHS, health plans are required to follow the DHS manual for these conditions. Therefore, all of the health plans with contracts with DHS already follow the DHS manual for government enrollees.

Finally, I want to point out that First Plan of Minnesota, which is based out of Duluth, is affiliated with BCBSM. Therefore, any changes to medical policy that BCBSM makes is adopted at First Plan of Minnesota also.

In presenting these letters, I believe the health plans have followed through on their commitment to modify their medical policies. Thank you for your willingness to find an alternative solution to simply passing a benefit mandate, which only applies to the state regulated, fully insured market.

On behalf of the Minnesota Council of Health Plans, it has been a great experience working with both of you and I look forward to working with you again in the future. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kmit

Attachments

Cc: Sen. Linda Scheid, Sen. Linda Berglin and Sen. John Marty
 Rep. Paul Thissen, Rep. Joe Atkins and Rep. Tom Huntley