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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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RODERICK L. BREMBY  
Commissioner

October 6, 2016

Honorable Terry B. Gerratana, Co-Chair,  
Honorable Catherine F. Abercrombie, Co-Chair,  
Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs,

In accordance with Special Act 16-17, the Department of Social Services is submitting its second quarterly report of access to radiology services provided to Husky Health program participants. These reports will measure the impact of the reduced fees paid to independent radiologists implemented in March, 2015. This correspondence compares radiology utilization data for claims made for the period June 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 to the claims made in the same period of the prior years.

Review of these claims continues to show no negative impact on access to radiology services for HUSKY Health members. Utilization of radiology services by HUSKY Health members increased from 844,147 to 899,392 total services during the respective reporting periods. Overall annualized radiology utilization per 1000 member months rose year to year by 6.3%.

Radiologist's professional services (i.e., annualized radiology visits per 1000 member months for HUSKY member was seen by a radiologist) increased 6.8% from year to year; hospital technical (facility) claims increased 5.7%, and independent radiology technical (facility) claims decreased 16.0%. This latter utilization remains very small compared to hospitals.

Although the drop in the use of radiology technical (facility) claims made by independent radiologists appears to be significant on a percentage basis, the net impact of this decrease remains negligible - from 8,541 to 7,189 claims. This is because the vast majority of HUSKY members use hospital-based services. For perspective, there were 214,823 hospital-based claims for these services during the same time period. Even when accounting for this decrease, net utilization of all radiology services continues to rise, again demonstrating no decrease in access.

All of the more frequently utilized radiological services showed increased utilization during the reported period year to year. Notably, mammography utilization increased 3.87% from year to year.

Lastly, the Department monitors member's calls as a "real-time" indicator of member concerns. Specifically, we track member requests for help finding radiologists, as well as member complaints about lack of access to radiology services. In 2016 there have been 27 referrals to the Escalation Unit for assistance with radiology services. These services were mainly for pain management, MRI and orthopedic services; all requests were accommodated without difficulty.

The Department appreciates the Council's mutual interest and concerns on this topic. The Department believes that there remains adequate access to radiological and imaging services for Medicaid beneficiaries. The data does not support the conclusion that participants' access to services has been diminished.

We remain absolutely committed to actively monitoring utilization and access for radiology services (and all other services) provided to every HUSKY Health member. If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me or Alvin R. Wilson Jr., Counsel and Government Relations Director, at [Alvin.Wilson@ct.gov](mailto:Alvin.Wilson@ct.gov) or 860-424-5105.

Sincerely,

  
Roderick L. Bremby  
Commissioner

cc: Honorable Matthew Ritter, House Co-Chair, Public Health Committee  
Honorable Joseph J. Crisco, Senate Vice-Chair, Public Health Committee  
Honorable Emmett D. Riley, House Vice-Chair, Public Health Committee  
Honorable Joe Markley, Senate Ranking Member, Public Health Committee  
Honorable Prasad Srinivasan, House Ranking Member, Public Health Committee  
Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee  
Honorable Marilyn Moore, Senate Co-Chair, Human Services Committee  
Honorable Gayle S. Slossberg, Senate Vice-Chair, Human Services Committee  
Honorable Brandon L. McGee, House Vice-Chair, Human Services Committee  
Honorable Joe Markley, Senate Ranking Member, Human Services Committee  
Honorable Terrie Wood, House Ranking Member, Human Services Committee  
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