



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

THOMAS M. SUEHS
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

October 15, 2009

Mary Dale Peterson, M.D., M.H.A.
Anesthesiology Associates
Driscoll Children's Hospital
3533 South Alameda
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

Dear Dr. Peterson:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 2009, requesting that pediatric specialists be exempt from having to enroll with Medicare before acquiring a Texas Medicaid provider number. I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Section 1.1.1 of the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual indicates that during the Texas Medicaid enrollment process, with state approval, the Claims Administrator may waive the mandatory prerequisite for Medicare enrollment for certain providers whose type of practice will never bill Medicare (e.g., pediatrics, obstetrician/gynecologist). Providers requesting exemption from Medicare enrollment must submit a brief written waiver request with their enrollment application to the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) for review.

To improve on the exemption process, we are making changes to the provider enrollment application and to the provider enrollment tool on the TMHP portal, located at www.tmhp.com. One of the more significant enhancements is a Medicare "opt-out" check-box that providers can select during the enrollment process to bypass the Medicare requirement. These changes will be completed in January 2010.

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Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention, and thank you for your dedication to this important population. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Billy Millwee, Deputy Director, Medicaid/CHIP Claims Administrator Operations, serves as the lead staff on this matter and can be reached at (512) 491-1869 or by e-mail at Billy.Millwee@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Bell, M.D.

Deputy Executive Commissioner for Health Services

CB:BM

cc: Helen Kent Davis, TMA

✓ Dr. Pat Giam, President, TSA

Carlene Rizzo, Administrator, Anesthesiology Associates