

December 15, 2009

<<first name>> <<last name>> MD
<<address>>
<<City>>, <<state>> <<zip>>

**Re: Changes to Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
dispensed by providers in the Rochester region
beginning January 15, 2010.**

Dear Dr. <<last name>>:

MVP Health Care ("MVP") is updating its policies to achieve consistency across the entire MVP service area and all lines of business. Beginning January 15, 2010, dispensing of durable medical equipment in the Rochester region will be aligned with all other MVP regions to ensure a consistent experience for our members and health care providers in New York State.

This alignment will represent a change in the way durable medical equipment (DME) is dispensed in the Rochester region. Beginning January 15, 2010 physicians and other practitioners (which include but are not limited to podiatrists, physical therapists and occupational therapists) may not act as a durable medical equipment provider or vendor except as noted below.

Basic durable medical equipment items can be provided for stabilization and safety to prevent further injury, as a convenience to our members without prior authorization. Examples of such items include canes, crutches, walkers (for safe ambulation), "off-the-shelf" bracing, air casts and walking boots (for joint/muscle immobilization to prevent further injury). These items can be billed with the office visit using the appropriate HCPCS code(s) provided they are not on the prior authorization list.

All other DME - orthotics, prosthetic, specialty equipment, and services - must be obtained from a participating durable medical equipment, orthotics, prosthetics, or specialty provider or vendor. **For assistance in locating a participating provider or vendor and to verify member eligibility or member-specific riders, please call (888) 687-6277.** For information regarding DME prosthetics, orthotics, and specialty equipment, visit the DME webpage at **www.mvphealthcare.com/provider/dme.html**.

(over)

Physical and Occupational Therapists may fabricate and dispense custom hand splints without prior authorization for the following codes:

L3700, L3701, L3702, L3710, L3760, L3762, L3806, L3807, L3808, L3900, L3901, L3906, L3908, L3909, L3911, L3913, L3915, L3917, L3919, L3921, L3923, L3925, L3927, L3929, L3931, L3933, L3935, L3980, L3982 , L3984.

Podiatrists may provide and bill for foot orthotics, using the appropriate “L” HCPCS codes, when the member’s contract includes the Foot Orthotic Rider, without prior authorization.

Podiatrists may provide and bill for diabetic shoe inserts and shoes for those members who have a diagnosis of diabetes, with or without a Foot Orthotic Rider, using the appropriate “A” HCPCS codes, without prior authorization.

Podiatrists may provide and bill for ankle foot orthotic bracing (L1900 – L1990) and must follow the prior authorization process.

Ankle foot orthotic bracing codes which require prior authorization can be found on the MVP Web site at www.mvphealthcare.com/provider/dme.html.

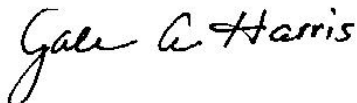
The Web site includes:

- Prior Authorization Code Lists (with and without descriptions)
- Prior Authorization Request Form
- Coverage and Purchasing Guidelines
- Copies of communication (letters and FastFaxes)

DME Medical Review Unit is available to assist with questions related to DME and orthotic and prosthetic items and services. Please contact the DME Unit directly at (800) 452-6966 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The DME fax number is (888) 452-5947.

As always, MVP appreciates your continuing support and effort in assisting with the health care needs of our members.

Sincerely,



Gale Harris
Director, Utilization Management
MVP Health Care