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MEMORANDUM

To: All Providers
From: Provider Services Department
Date: June 18, 2013
Subject: Cervical Cancer Screening- Age Eligibility Update

Effective July 1, 2013, the State Medi-Cal program will restrict coverage of cervical cancer screening to women ages 21 to 65 years of age regardless of sexual history. The new screening criteria is being implemented to align with state and nationwide screening recommendations. Research has found that screening women ages 21 to 65 years every three years with cytology provides a reasonable balance between benefits and harms. Central California Alliance for Health (the Alliance), at this time, will continue to reimburse providers for cervical cancer screenings of patients outside of this age range with the understanding that providers are conducting these screenings according to nationwide screening recommendations.

Cervical cancer screenings are appropriate if provided to women under 21 or over 65 years of age with one of the following clinical conditions:

- Received a diagnosis of a high-grade precancerous cervical lesion (cervical intraepithelial neoplasia [CIN] 2, CIN 3, or adenocarcinoma in situ [AIS]) within the past 20 years and requires screening after the initial post-treatment surveillance per current ACOG, ACS, ASCCP, and ASCP guidelines, or ANY prior diagnosis of cervical cancer;
- In utero exposure to diethylstilbestrol (DES);
- Immunocompromised status (such as HIV positive or immune suppressed, such as a transplant patient using steroids);
- Requires repeat cervical cytology to reevaluate prior atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US), low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LGSIL/LSISL), or CIN 1 test result; or
- Over 65 who did not have adequate negative prior screening. Adequate negative prior screening is defined as three consecutive negative cytology results or two consecutive negative co-tests within the ten years before cessation of screening, with the most recent test occurring within the past five years.

Reimbursement may be made for services provided to women younger than 21 years or over the age of 65 when one of the above clinical conditions are documented in the remarks field on your claims form.

If you have any questions related to this change, please contact your Provider Services Representative at (831) 430-5504 or 1-800-700-3874, ext. 5504.