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MEMORANDUM

To: Skilled Nursing Providers
From: Central California Alliance for Health
Date: 5/9/13
Subject: Change in Blood Glucose Test Strips

Please be aware that beginning **June 1, 2013**, Central California Alliance for Health (the "Alliance") will no longer be covering the Assure, blood-glucose test strip. This test strip is sometimes used in long term care facilities to measure blood-glucose levels in diabetic patients. To the extent that your facility uses the Assure test strip, it will need to cease using this item for individuals enrolled in the Alliance's health plan and begin using one of the comparable test strips listed below as these test strips will continue to be covered and paid for by the Alliance:

1. TrueTrack Test Strips
2. TrueTest Test Strips

As a Medi-Cal managed care plan, the Alliance is obligated to cover and pay for healthcare items, services and supplies that **meet medical necessity and are the most cost efficient**. The test strips listed above and covered by the Alliance **meet medical necessity requirements and are significantly lower in price than the Assure test strip**.

Moreover, the Assure test strip was never included on the Alliance's approved formulary. As such, whenever the Alliance covered the cost of the Assure test strip, it was a non-formulary item covered as a courtesy to your facility. Unfortunately, the Alliance can no longer continue this courtesy due to recent changes in the cost of the various test strips used to monitor blood glucose levels.

The Alliance is sympathetic to any disruption this change may cause. Therefore, in certain situations the Alliance will, for a limited time, continue to cover the cost of the Assure test strip while your facility transitions to one of the covered test strips. If you would like us to continue covering your facility, please contact Richard Johnson, Pharmacy Director at 831-430-5553 and we will consider your request.

Thank you,

The Alliance