

## **AHCCCS Benefit Changes**

**October 27, 2010**

Dear Phoenix Health Plan (PHP) Provider:

AHCCCS has posted a memo clarifying the AHCCCS Benefit Changes regarding wellness exams. This information aligns with the related information already provided to you by PHP.

Please find the attached document which provides clarification of the wellness exam.

The AHCCCS notification can also be viewed at:

[http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/Legislation/2010seventh/Memo\\_WellExamsFinal10\\_20\\_10.pdf](http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/Legislation/2010seventh/Memo_WellExamsFinal10_20_10.pdf)

Please continue to check the AHCCCS and Phoenix Health Plan websites for further updates and information on recent changes to Members benefits and co-payment requirements. Phoenix Health Plan will continue to fax information to you when it becomes available.

If you have any questions and/or do not have internet access please don't hesitate to contact your Provider Relations Representative directly or the department number shown below.

**THANK YOU**

**Janice K. Brewer, Governor**  
**Thomas J. Betlach, Director**

801 East Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85034  
PO Box 25520, Phoenix, AZ 85002  
Phone: 602-417-4000  
www.azahcccs.gov



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ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

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**DATE:** October 20, 2010

**TO:** Interested Stakeholders

**FROM:** Marc Leib, MD, Chief Medical Officer

**SUBJECT:** Well Exams

In response to significant fiscal challenges facing the State and growth in the Medicaid population, AHCCCS implemented several changes to the adult benefit package effective October 1, 2010, including the elimination of well exams for adult members who are 21 years of age and over. For members **under** 21 years of age the benefit has **not** changed, and AHCCCS continues to cover medically necessary services under the EPSDT Program. This memo clarifies reoccurring questions AHCCCS has received regarding the elimination of well exams for adult members age 21 and older.

### **Services That Are NOT Covered for Members Age 21 Years and Older**

Effective October 1, 2010, AHCCCS no longer reimburses for well exams. Well exams are defined as: “Physical examinations in the absence of any known disease or specific medical complaint by the patient precipitating the examination.” Codes that **will no longer be covered** include CPT codes: 99385–99387, 99395–99397 and HCPCS code S5190 **OR** professional claims (regardless of procedure code) with the primary diagnosis of V72.31, V70.0, V70.9. This applies to both male and female members. Office visits for evaluation or treatment of medical conditions, described by CPT codes 99201–99215, continue to be covered.

### **Services That ARE Covered for Members Age 21 Years and Older**

Although AHCCCS no longer reimburses for well exams, AHCCCS will continue to cover pap smears, mammograms and colonoscopies. Mammograms and colonoscopies are distinct procedures described by CPT codes and are separately payable. There are no CPT codes that describe the collection of a pap smear. However, HCPCS code Q0091 may be used to describe this procedure. A pelvic exam may be performed during any office visit, even if the pelvic exam is unrelated to the underlying reason for the visit. For example, a physician seeing a patient for a sore throat, cough or back pain may perform a pelvic exam to obtain a specimen for a pap smear. Office visits for family planning purposes also continue to be covered and may include a pelvic exam and pap smear. The Q0091 code may be reported without an associated office visit code.

Clinicians should consult with their certified professional coders with regard to procedures, diagnosis codes and claims billing. Their contracted health plans are another resource. AHCCCS Registered Providers may bill AHCCCS members for non-covered services if, in advance of provision of the service, the member signs an agreement to accept financial responsibility for the specific service, and the approximate cost of the service is described in the agreement. Please see Arizona Administrative Code R9-22-702 for the requirements to bill AHCCCS members or consult with your practice attorney.