



Phoenix Health Plan

An Affiliate of Abrazo Health Care

Hospital Outpatient Services Ambulatory Surgical Center Services

April 29, 2011

Phoenix Health Plan (PHP)

As previously notified effective for dates of service on and after May 1, 2011, PHP has implemented a process which encourages specified procedures to be performed in an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) or office setting when medically appropriate. The process involves eliminating prior authorization on a majority of the specified procedures when performed in a contracted ASC or an office setting.

The list of procedures as well as a directory of PHP's contracted ASCs can be found at:

www.PhoenixHealthPlan.com

(select **Provider** and **Prior Authorization** sublinks)

PHP plans on implementing a prior authorization change in relationship to hospital outpatient procedures. *Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2011, all outpatient procedures performed in a hospital setting will require prior authorization - Attachment III in the PHP Prior Authorization Guidelines will be eliminated.*

In Maricopa and Pima Counties, the change in prior authorization of hospital outpatient procedures had an original effective date of May 1, 2011, but with continued research and feedback from our network the implementation will be postponed to July 1, 2011. We will continue to encourage the use of ASCs for specified procedures. This postponement will allow additional time to obtain privileges at contracted ASCs.

PHP is implementing this process as a result of a requirement in our contract with AHCCCS. All AHCCCS Plans are to ensure that medically necessary services are performed in the most cost effective setting. PHP is making this change to ensure that we are aligned with this goal.

Please direct questions to your assigned Provider Relations Representative or area Market Manager.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to assist in keeping the AHCCCS program viable.

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