

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 90
HARRISBURG 17120

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DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
QUALITY ASSURANCE

November 22, 1999

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Judith K. Painter
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Western Pennsylvania
1323 Forbes Avenue
Suite 102
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Ms. Painter:

Your letter to the Secretary of Health regarding the Department of Health's proposed managed care regulations for implementation of Act 68 was referred to me. As Deputy Secretary for Quality Assurance, my responsibilities include the Bureau of Managed Care, which is charged with oversight of HMOs and other managed care organizations. Specifically, you suggested a meeting to share your concerns with how the proposed regulations will affect the treatment available to patients with epilepsy/seizure disorder, particularly as it relates to the use of drug formularies and the provision of prescription drug benefits.

We expect to publish the proposed regulations for a 30-day public comment period within the next few weeks. In light of that schedule, it may be more productive to meet with you after these regulations have been published for public comment and you have had an opportunity to study them in conjunction with your constituents' concerns. You may want to consider your issues and then submit written comments. All comments received will then be reviewed, and appropriate revisions to the regulations will be made prior to final adoption.


Judith K. Painter

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November 22, 1999

Please feel free to contact Stacy Mitchell, Director of the Bureau of Managed Care, for additional information about the managed care regulations or to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. H. Lee", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard H. Lee
Deputy Secretary for Quality Assurance