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Our first care is your health care
ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

DATE: April 5, 2010
TO: All Interested Stakeholders
FROM: Marc Leib, MD, Chief Medical Officer
SUBJECT: Podiatric Services

During its special session to address Arizona's severe fiscal crisis, the Arizona Legislature enacted numerous changes to the AHCCCS program, including elimination of podiatric services provided by a podiatrist to adult AHCCCS members. This legislation provides no discretion as to whether AHCCCS implements these changes. Because these changes involve significant operational issues, we are uncertain as to when they will be implemented, but we will provide at least 30 days advance notice prior to implementation.

We understand your commitment to your patients and your desire to continue treating those who are covered by AHCCCS. Because services provided by podiatrists will no longer be covered benefits under AHCCCS, once these changes are implemented podiatrists may bill AHCCCS members for their services if the member agrees and signs an agreement in advance acknowledging their financial responsibility. Please see Arizona Administrative Code R9-22-702 for the requirements to bill AHCCCS members or consult with your practice attorney.

Please be aware that AHCCCS will continue to make payments to podiatrists for services provided to members under the age of 21. AHCCCS will also continue to pay the co-payments and deductibles for members covered under both Medicare and AHCCCS.

For additional information and updates please refer to the AHCCCS website available at <http://www.azahcccs.gov/>