



Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance

March 18, 2008

Mr. Scott Einiger
Attorney at Law
630 3rd Ave. 5th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Re: AETNA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Department File No.: 0208CA141798

Enclosed is a copy of the letter that we received from Aetna in response to your inquiry.

The company's letter appears to be self-explanatory. Aetna has postponed implementation of their new policy. Unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will assume that this matter is satisfactorily resolved.

If you have further questions regarding this or any other insurance matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sourk".

Jennifer R. Sourk
Attorney, Consumer Assistance Division
(785) 296-3071 (phone), (785) 296-5806 (fax), jsourk@ksinsurance.org

Enclosure



Executive & Regulatory
Resolution Team
151 Farmington Avenue, RE6A
Hartford, CT 06156-7003
Phone: (860) 273-3490
Fax: (860) 273-5430
Email: aetnadoi@aetna.com

March 18, 2008

Kansas Insurance Department
420 SW 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1678
Attn: Ms. Jennifer R. Sourk

Your File Number:	0208CA141798
Provider's Name:	GA Alliance
Payer:	Aetna Life Insurance Company & Aetna Health, Inc.
Aetna Case Number:	2008031701162
NAIC Number:	60054 & 95810

Dear Ms. Sourk:

This is to acknowledge your letter dated February 20, 2008, in which Aetna received on February 25, 2008.

Aetna has re-evaluated our position regarding our April 1, 2008 policy change on how we cover sedation services during colonoscopies and other routine endoscopic procedures.

We are postponing implementation of our new clinical policy. We have attached a copy of that written correspondence regarding this matter for the Department's records.

If the State Agency has any questions, please call me directly at 904-351-3413.

To help us more efficiently handle written follow up inquiries, we ask that you send them to the attention of Thomas A. Young at the address above.

Sincerely,

Helen R. Hester
Project Manager
Complaints, Grievances & Appeals



Provider Resolution Team
P.O. Box 14020
Lexington, KY 40512

March 18, 2008

Attn: Ms. Jennifer R. Sourk
Kansas Insurance Department
420 SW 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1678

Complaint Case Number(s): 2008031701162
Your File Number: 0208CA141798

Subject: Anesthesia Services for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Dear Ms. Sourk:

We've received your letter of February 20, 2008 regarding the April 1, 2008 policy change on how we cover sedation services during colonoscopies and other routine endoscopic procedures.

We are postponing implementation of our new clinical policy for monitored anesthesia care

We've decided to delay plans to implement our policy related to monitored anesthesia care (MAC) for endoscopies. The policy will not take effect on April 1, 2008 as originally announced.

Why we are delaying this change

Immediately after notifying the medical community of our policy change in December 2007, we opened a broad, ongoing dialogue about our decision with physicians and the societies that represent them. In most cases, these discussions have been cordial and productive exchanges of information. We learned some important information as part of this process.

It is important to point out that we have always covered moderate sedation for routine colonoscopies and endoscopies. However, some individuals have unfortunately chosen to misinterpret our policy that we would no longer cover sedation and have suggested that our policy change would negatively impact colon cancer screening rates. Neither is true. Our member data confirms that there is no relationship between improved screening rates and the use of MAC. However, such misinformation can cause confusion among our members and could negatively impact colon cancer screening rates among our members.

We also determined that in those few markets where MAC for endoscopies has become the routine approach to sedation, implementing our policy on April 1 would inconvenience our members in those markets and potentially depress screening rates in the short term.

New technologies are coming

In addition, new medical devices, as well as new sedatives are expected on the market during the summer of 2008, and are in review with the Federal Drug Administration now. Both are designed to provide a patient experience that is very similar, or perhaps better, than monitored anesthesia care, but can be managed exclusively by the physician performing the endoscopic procedure.

We want to make sure our providers and members have access to these additional options before we discontinue reimbursement for monitored anesthesia care. Therefore, we have decided to delay the implementation of our MAC policy.

Our policy change is grounded in strong clinical evidence

We continue to believe our policy is soundly and accurately based on strong clinical evidence. It was two years in development and includes significant input from medical societies at the national level. The policy reflects the guidelines established by the American College of Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterological Association, and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. It always allowed for coverage of the recommended and most commonly used form of sedation during routine endoscopies.

Aetna appreciates the dialogue and exchange of information we've had with physicians and medical societies over the last two months. We know that working together with physicians we can help improve the quality and consistency of care delivered to our members. In that spirit we will continue to work with physicians to temper the use of medically unnecessary procedures and increase patient access to important screening services.

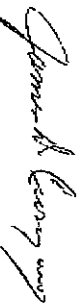
Preventive care screenings are recommended

We remain vigorous advocates of recommended cancer screenings. We cover screening colonoscopies and flexible sigmoidoscopies in all plans that include preventive care benefits.

Contact us if you have questions

Please call our Provider Service Center at 1-800-624-0756 for questions related to HMO-based benefits plans or 1-888-632-3862 for questions related to indemnity and PPO-based benefits plans. Or, you can contact your Aetna network representative.

Sincerely,



James D. Cross, M.D.
National Head of Medical Policy & Program Administration