

Klozik, Brian

From: Klozik, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2009 5:03 PM
To: 'Altenhoff, Linda'
Cc: Forbes, Dianne; LaFuente, Vivian
Subject: RE: THSteps orthodontics

Dr. Altenhoff,

We have one board certified orthodontist on contract with OIG and he's probably reviewed two cases involving orthodontists (or general dentists performing orthodontic procedures). Dr. Natoli was reluctant to "second guess" the P.A. from TMHP when he did these reviews. He felt that if the contractor authorized the service, who was he to question it. Dr. Natoli was not aware of how the P.A. process was being handled at TMHP. **I feel certain if he was aware TMHP was not routinely looking at cephalometric films with tracings, models, and other radiographs, he might have been more inclined to give his expert opinion.**

There was also a legal question as to whether or not OIG would be successful in pursuing overpayments if we retrospectively determined something was inappropriately P.A.'d. How would a defense attorney challenge this? TMHP grants P.A., but OIG's consultant states P.A. should have been given?

I'm going to ask Dr. Natoli to start looking at the records from a prior authorization perspective and give his expert opinion on whether he feels P.A. should have been granted (for specific services, to include full banding) based on existing guidelines in the TMPPM. We have at least three cases involving ortho that are pending a review. I know this does not help now, but perhaps in the near future, we could offer some numbers on the services that were incorrectly P.A.'d.

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Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:18 PM

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To: Brian Klozik
Cc: Forbes, Dianne; LaFuente,Vivian
Subject: THSteps orthodontics

Brian:

As the state works to update and revise the THSteps orthodontic policy, can you provide me with an estimate from OIG's perspective as to the percentage of orthodontic services that are incorrectly/inappropriately prior authorized by TMHP? This will help as we develop assumptions associated with the pricing of orthodontic services.

Thanks in advance,

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