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ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

DATE: April 7, 2011
TO: Interested Stakeholders
FROM: Marc Leib, MD, Chief Medical Officer
SUBJECT: Transplant Restoration

AHCCCS RESTORES COVERAGE OF PREVIOUSLY COVERED TRANSPLANTS FOR ADULTS

As part of the recently enacted budget, the Arizona Legislature adopted Governor Brewer's Medicaid Reform Plan which restores funding of previously covered transplants for adults that were eliminated effective October 1, 2010. Retroactive to April 1, 2011, AHCCCS will once again cover the following transplants for members 21 years of age and older:

- Pancreas-after-kidney transplants
- Liver transplants in patients with Hepatitis C
- Allogeneic unrelated hematopoietic cell transplants
- Heart transplants in patients with non-ischemic cardiomyopathies
- Lung transplants
- Heart-lung transplants

Transplants that were not covered by AHCCCS prior to October 1, 2010, including pancreas only transplants, partial pancreas transplants and pancreas islet cell transplants, are not affected by this legislation. Those transplants remain non-covered consistent with AHCCCS policies. In addition to the medically necessary transplants covered for adults, AHCCCS continues to cover *all* medically necessary, non experimental transplants for members under the age of 21 years as required by EPSDT.

Coverage criteria for restored transplants will be the same as the criteria in place prior to October 1, 2010. Physicians with patients they believe meet the criteria for any AHCCCS covered transplant should contact the AHCCCS health plan in which the patient is enrolled to refer the patient for transplant evaluation.

For more information, please see the AHCCCS website at:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/legislation/sessions/2010/BenefitChanges.aspx#transplantRestoration>