



July 7, 1999

Dear Medicaid Anesthesia Provider:

The 1999 Florida Legislature approved funding to increase anesthesia time for labor epidural procedures. The appropriation will increase the allowed time for labor epidural procedures from one hour of anesthesia time to a maximum of six hours of anesthesia time. This new rate of reimbursement will apply to claims with effective dates of service on or after November 1, 1999.

Reimbursement for claims with dates of service prior to November 1, 1999 are still limited to one hour of anesthesia time.

This new legislation will improve both access to the service and reimbursement. Please make the appropriate change in your January 1999 Physician Fee Schedule for procedure codes 00955 and 00857, with an effective date of November 1, 1999. All other program and policy guidelines are still applicable. If you have any questions regarding anesthesia policy, please refer to the Physician Coverage and Limitations Handbook, January 1999, or call your Area Medicaid Office.

The Agency for Health Care Administration, Division of Medicaid, appreciates the service you provide to our Medicaid recipients in Florida.

If you have specific questions regarding this new increased funding, please contact the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists at (850) 222-6000 or you may call Lynne Metz, Registered Nurse Consultant with Medicaid Program Development, at (850) 922-7325.

Sincerely,

Gary Crayton
Deputy Director for Medicaid

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