

Rick Howard, Manager,  
Health Financing Operations Section

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**Number:** OMAP-IM-04-027

**Authorized Signature**

**Issue Date:** 4/16/04

**Topic:** Medical Benefits

**Subject:** Centralization of Prior Authorization (PA) for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS Employees             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <u>DHS staff and others identified on the SPD, CAF, OMHAS and OMAP transmittal lists</u> |

**Message:** Currently, SPD/AAA offices determine prior authorization for services and supplies to SPD clients. Effective May 1, 2004, OMAP will determine PA for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies for these clients. This will complete the centralization of the PA process.

We will send affected clients and providers the following notices prior to implementation.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Arlene Nelson		
<b>Phone:</b>	(503) 945-6519		
<b>E-mail:</b>	arlene.nelson@state.or.us	<b>Fax:</b>	(503) 378-5814



## Important Information About Prior Authorization for Medical Equipment and Supplies

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Some of the services and supplies that the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) pays for must be approved before you can receive them. This is called “prior authorization” (PA).

Currently, your local office approves most medical equipment and supplies. This procedure will change on May 1, 2004, and the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) in Salem will approve medical equipment and supplies requiring PA.

### **This Means**

*Your health care coverage will **not** change.* You will still receive the covered medical equipment and supplies you are eligible for. However, your provider will now contact OMAP for approval.

You do not have to do anything. OMAP has informed your doctor and providers of this change.

Your local office will continue to approve medical equipment and supplies requiring PA through April 31, 2004.

### **Why Change Who Decides Prior Authorization?**

OMAP is the DHS office that runs the Oregon Health Plan. By having OMAP approve services and supplies:

- The OMAP Medical Unit will work with the requesting provider to make sure the most appropriate equipment and supplies are approved.
- Equipment and supplies may cost less, because the approval will come from one office, rather than from many local offices throughout the state.
- PA is already determined by OMAP for other OHP clients and for some of the services you may receive. This will make it easier for your provider to know who to contact to request PA.

### **What if a PA is Denied?**

This process has not changed. If OMAP denies a PA request, we will send you a PA Denial Notice. The Denial Notice has Hearing rights and instructions on how to ask for a Hearing. We will also send a copy of the notice to the requesting provider and local office.

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### **Questions?**

- ☎ **Call the OMAP Client Advisory Services Unit** at (1-800) 273-0557 - if you have questions about this notice.
- ☎ **Call your case manager** - if you need this notice in a larger print size or different format.





## DHS Implements PA Centralization for DME

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Effective May 1, 2004, the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) will begin determining prior authorization (PA) for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies for clients served by Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) offices.

This completes the Department of Human Services (DHS) PA centralization that began in December, 2003. DHS has centralized the PA process for the following services:

- ✓ Speech Therapy, Audiology and Hearing Aids
- ✓ Occupational and Physical Therapy
- ✓ Home Health
- ✓ Private Duty Nursing
- ✓ Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies

### **Questions?**

- If you have questions about this notice, contact a Provider Services Representative, toll-free at 1-800-336-6016 or direct at (503) 378-3697.
- If you have questions about the PA process, or a specific PA request, call the contact shown in the appropriate Supplemental Information booklet. We have posted the Supplemental Information booklets at:

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/index.html>

