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Bulletin No. 95-13

To: Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

From: Commissioner Linda Ruthardt

RE: Blood-Glucose Monitoring Strips: Amendment of Statute

Date: December 12, 1995

The purpose of this bulletin is to remind HMOs that M.G.L. c. 176G § 4H (added by St. 1994, c. 60, § 150) has been amended. As you are aware, M.G.L. c. 176G § 4H, as originally passed with an effective date of July 1, 1994, requires that:

> Any group health maintenance contract shall provide, as set forth in section forty-seven N of chapter one hundred and seventy-five, coverage for blood-glucose monitoring strips for home use for which a physician has issued a written order and which are medically necessary for the treatment of insulin dependent diabetes.

St. 1995, c. 38, § 157, effective July 1, 1995, amends the law by inserting the words "individual or" after the word "Any" in the statute. Therefore, HMOs are reminded that coverage for blood-glucose monitoring strips is to be provided in both individual and group contracts.

Questions regarding this Bulletin should be directed to Caroline E. DeStefano, Assistant General Counsel at (617) 521-7364.