



North Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
**Clinical Policy & Programs**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Tara R. Larson, Acting Director

December 8, 2008

Re: Changes in Outpatient Specialized  
Therapy services

Dear County Director of Social Services:

The prior approval process for Physical, Occupational, Speech and Respiratory Therapy services will end effective December 22, 2008. A notification is being sent to recipients to inform them that a recipient 21 years of age or older may have up to 30 combined visits of all therapy treatment visits (PT, OT, SLP) per calendar year, from all therapy providers, in any outpatient setting. Additional visits may be granted if deemed to be medically necessary. These cases will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Services for children will require approval to exceed 52 visits in 6 months. Procedures for this new process will be issued at a later date.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Nora Poisella (Nora.Poisella@ncmail.net), at (919) 855-4317.

Sincerely,

Tara R. Larson

cc: Dr. Patti Forest  
Angela Floyd  
Nora Poisella

TRL:np

## Change in Therapy Services

If you are 21 years of age or older, you may have up to 30 visits of all Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Therapy treatment visits per calendar year. This applies to visits you receive in an outpatient setting such as a hospital or doctor's office. Your doctor or therapist may ask for additional visits. Each request will be reviewed to decide if it is medically necessary.

## Cambio en Servicios de Terapia

Si usted tiene 21 años de edad o más, usted puede tener hasta 30 visitas en total y al año por todo tratamiento o terapia física, terapia ocupacional, y terapia del habla. Esto se aplica también a las terapias ambulatorias que recibe, tales como en un hospital o en la oficina del doctor. Su médico o terapeuta puede solicitar visitas adicionales. Cada solicitud será revisada para decidir si es médicamente necesaria.