February 1, 2016

CIRCULAR LETTER: CC-2016-1874-D

TO ALL HEALTH SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS AND INSURERS THAT WRITE HEALTH INSURANCE IN PUERTO RICO

AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 344 OF THE PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DECREE AN INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

Dear Sirs and Madams:

On January 29, 2016, the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance issued Circular Letter CN-2016-1873-D in response to Administrative Order No. 344 of the Puerto Rico Department of Health. Administrative Order No. 344 was amended by the Department of Health. We are therefore setting aside Circular Letter CN-2016-1873-D and substituting it with this Circular Letter. We are enclosing Administrative Order No. 344 as amended by the Department of Health.

On January 28, 2016, the Department of Health of the Commonwealth Puerto Rico issued Administrative Order No. 344 to decree an Influenza epidemic and requiring that all public and private health insurance plans to authorize “the use of the medications Oseltamivir and Zanamivir for any person who shows symptoms consistent with Influenza regardless of the results of the fast test for Influenza, based on the clinical opinion of the physician.”

We urge all health services organization and insurers that write health insurance with pharmacy coverage to diligently responded to claims to facilitate the rapid access of patients to this medication and fulfill the objective being sought in this Administrative Order to control the epidemic. The Influenza epidemic that has been decreed is a serious public health matter and early detection and prompt access to treatment is of benefit to us all.
We are certain that our licensees recognize the need for immediate cooperation by all of the components of the health field, including insurers and health services organizations, so that we can address the Influenza epidemic in a way that it may be controlled as soon as possible.

Strict compliance with this Circular Letter is hereby required.

Very truly yours,

SIGNED

Ángela Weyne-Roig
Commissioner of Insurance