

ADVISORY NO. 283
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TOPIC: **PREAUTHORIZATION VIOLATIONS**

The Commission has received a number of complaints about carriers applying the new proposed preauthorization rules. These rules have not been adopted. They are not in effect. The current rule adopted April 1, 1997 remains in effect and applies to all services requiring preauthorization.

In particular, chiropractors have complained that carriers are requiring chiropractors to obtain preauthorization for chiropractic manipulation. The Commission previously determined that preauthorization is not required for chiropractic manipulation. See FOL Advisory No. 207 issued in 1996 (Advisory is available on the FOL web site under the Resource Center). Since 1996, chiropractors have not been required to obtain preauthorization for their services. That interpretation remains in effect.

Furthermore, the Commission reports a recurring problem with the denial of pharmaceutical charges because the pharmacy prescription was not “preauthorized.” Drugs have never been included on the list of preauthorized services. They are not proposed to be included under the new preauthorization rule. Preauthorization should never be required for a drug prescription.