

TO: ATLANTIC IMAGING GROUP MEMBERS

**FROM: JUDI ELAM
VICE PRESIDENT OF CLAIMS**

DATE: APRIL 29, 2002

RE: GOOD PRACTICES FAX

As you may already be aware, on March 11, 2002 the Superior Court of New Jersey issued a final opinion regarding a challenge to the AICRA, which underscores the validity of the legislation and clarifies certain administrative facets. An important component of the court's decision relates to the ATLANTIC preferred provider network usage, whereby the court upheld the right for an Insurance Carrier to offer a network to its insured and assess a co-pay as high as 50% when the patient elects to go out of network. The decision link is: <http://lawlibrary.rutgers.edu/courts/appellate/a3312-99.opn.html>

ATLANTIC is in the process of retaining counsel to assist in the interpretation of the courts decision as it relates to the proper procedure's and time frames an Insurance Carrier must utilize with pre-certification, care-paths and denials. We will distribute the results of that research when it is received from our counsel.

We suggest that all centers consider implementing the following practices before administering services to a patient:

1. Where appropriate (post 10 days of the accident) be sure that the procedure is Pre-Certified or has been documented in a Pre-Approved Care Path. (*Most patients receive an authorization letter prior to the service being rendered*)
2. Be sure that a PIP application has been filed by the patient—consider requesting a copy from the referring practitioner
3. Submit your bill and report to AIG as soon as possible, but within 10 days of the procedure.

If you have any questions regarding this Fax Broadcast, please feel free to call me at **ATLANTIC** at 973-451-9415.

Judi Elam
Vice President Claims