

## Health Plus Medical & Claims Payment Bulletin

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**Bulletin number: CL - 403**

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**Subject: Primary Care Physician (PCP) and Scope of Service**

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### **Policy:**

- A Primary Care Physician's scope of responsibility includes services usually provided by Metropolitan area Primary Care Physicians. Primary Care Physicians may apply for additional privileges for which they have training. If a physician is trained and approved as a Health Plus specialist, the scope of primary care services is extended to these providers.
- Health Plus may limit services that participating Primary Care Physicians may bill the Plan and which are payable above the contractual capitation payment received by such physicians.
- In making a decision regarding which services may be billed, Health Plus will take into consideration whether or not a service is customarily performed by a PCP or a specialist, and whether or not a service requires the skill of a specialist to perform and/or interpret.
- In deciding if a service can be billed above the capitation, Health Plus will take into account whether or not a service requires a significant effort or expenditure of resources to perform and justifies its being reimbursed outside of the physician's contracted capitation.
- Primary Care Physicians who are both a Primary Care Physician and a specialist may not self-refer a member of their panel. The Primary Care Physician/Specialist will be reimbursed fee-for-service for those specialty services which are not in the Primary Care Physician's capitation.
- In making these decisions Health Plus will consider the guidelines of recognized professional societies, Medicare and Medicaid policies and reimbursement, the policies of other payers and, when necessary, the opinions of independent practitioners in the geographical region served by the plan.

**Policies in this manual are intended to reflect standard Health Plus procedures. In instances where a provider's contract contains other policies which may be more or less restrictive than those in this manual, these contractual provisions will apply.**

<b>Date Approved:</b>	5-16-06	<b>Approved By:</b>	<i>Clifford D. Markut, M.D., M.P.H.</i>
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