



## PROVIDER NOTICE

### **Effective January 1, 2005:**

Health Plus will reinstate the prior authorization requirement for all physical medicine, physical and occupational therapy visits.

Beginning January 1, 2005, any referral for physical medicine, and physical or occupational therapy will require an authorization from Health Plus in order for services to be rendered.

This change in policy comes as a direct result of the near 100% increase in physical medicine and physical therapy utilization observed since January 2004, when the prior authorization requirement was eliminated for physical medicine visits and the first 20 physical or occupational therapy visits per calendar year.

Members receiving physical or occupational therapy under the current provision can proceed with their visits until December 31, 2004. Any future visits planned after this date will require prior authorization from Health Plus (even if the original 20-visit allowance had not been reached).

Health Plus authorization is also required for all Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Physiatry) visits which occur on or after January 1, 2005.

We regret any inconvenience that this new policy will cause, but the dramatic cost increase associated with the doubling of physical therapy utilization has left the plan with no other choice.

Should you have any questions regarding the new policy, please contact your Provider Relations Associate or speak to one of our representatives at 1-800-450-8753 any time between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.