



## PROVIDER NOTICE

August 1, 2007

Dear Health Plus Participating Provider:

This notice is to inform you that effective **September 1, 2007**, the following services will be subject to prior authorization:

- 1. Hearing screening for children age of six (6) and older: Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) and Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR). CPT Codes – 92585 and 92586.**
- 2. BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene-mutation screening for genetic risk of breast cancer. CPT Codes – 83890-98 and 83900-14.**

In regards to OAE screening, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that OAE is not a “true test of hearing” and recommends that when children are comfortable with the testing situation (usually when they are over 4 years old.), they should undergo a conventional audiometric screening,. To ensure the use of age-appropriate technology for hearing screening, Health Plus will require Primary Care Providers to obtain prior authorization of OAE for children of 6 years of age and older.

As to BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene-mutation screening, the American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that only about one in 900 people in the general population carry a mutation in BRCA1 and about one in 800 carry a mutation in BRCA2. Furthermore, although the presence of the gene mutation indicates an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer for the gene carrier, this risk varies widely as a function of family history and other factors. Since BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic screening is technically difficult, costly, and there is still no complete evidence as to the frequency of disease in mutation carriers, Health Plus will require prior authorization for these services and recommends that they should be reserved only for patients at high risk for breast cancer who meet any of the following criteria:

1. Two or more first-degree relatives with breast or ovarian cancer.
2. One first-degree relative and at least two other relatives diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer.
3. Mother or sister diagnosed with breast cancer before age 50.
4. Woman is of Ashkenazi Jewish descent.

As always, we appreciate everything you do to take care of our members, and we thank you in advance for your full understanding of the recent changes in our prior authorization requirements.