

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
150 S. Independence Mall West  
Suite 216, The Public Ledger Building  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3499



**Region III/Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations**

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October 23, 2009

The Honorable Estelle B. Richman  
Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
Health & Welfare Building  
P.O. Box 2675  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675

Dear Secretary Richman:

We have reviewed Pennsylvania's State Plan Amendment (SPA) 09-019, which establishes prior authorization for Neulasta, Buprenorphine agents, except the initial prescription; and Benzodiazepines when prescribed for recipients under 21 years of age. The Pharmacy Team at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved this SPA on October 1, 2009, with an effective date of August 3, 2009. Enclosed is the approved SPA page along with the signed CMS-179 form.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Cruse of my staff at (215) 861-4216.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ted Gallagher  
Associate Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: John Hummel, DPW