



**Florida
Health Care
Plans**



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

TO: FHCP PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

FROM: JOSEPH ZUCKERMAN, M.D., CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

DATE: JUNE 20, 2011

SUBJECT: HIDA SCANS

We recently received input from general surgery, gastroenterology and radiology regarding the use of outpatient HIDA scans. Interestingly, the feedback received from each specialist was nearly identical; they perceive outpatient HIDA scans as providing very little, if any, clinical benefit in most patients. Furthermore, because the test can be difficult to interpret and the results ambiguous, it may sometimes even have negative consequences by being misleading.

Accordingly, effective July 1, 2011, we are requesting that outpatient HIDA scans only be ordered under the auspices of a general surgeon. Dr. Black has indicated that he will accept referrals of patients with undiagnosed abdominal pain who require further evaluation.

Outpatient HIDA scans can still be ordered through the referrals department in those situations where you feel the test would be of particular value. Such cases will require pre-authorization.

Please feel free to contact me at 615-4087 or by email at jzuckerman@fhcp.com if you have any thoughts or questions about this. We appreciate all the hard work that you do on behalf of our FHCP members.