**Letter re: Family planning including LARC**

To [NAME OF HEALTH PLAN/IPA]

Our patients are experiencing delays in access to family planning because [NAME OF HEALTH PLAN/IPA] is requiring Medi-Cal managed care enrollees to obtain prior authorization for [DESCRIBE SERVICE THAT WAS DENIED]. This requirement for prior authorization is not consistent with California law. Health plans in California, including Medi-Cal managed care plans, are not permitted to impose cost sharing or utilization controls for all prescribed FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products, including education, counseling, and related follow-up services except in very limited circumstances. Thus, Medi-Cal managed care enrollees may not be required to seek prior authorization for any FDA-approved long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) devices, LARC insertion, LARC removal, or any other LARC placement related issues.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of public documents on the California laws and regulations related to same-day access to LARCs and other related contraception and family planning services:

* [SB 1053](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1053) went into effect on January 1, 2016 and prohibits health plans in California, including Medi-Cal managed care plans, from imposing cost sharing or utilization controls for prescribed FDA-approved female contraceptive drugs, devices, and products, including education, counseling, and related follow-up services.
* Bulletin 489 of the California Department of Health Care Services [June 2015 Medi-Cal Update](http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/bulletins/artfull/ips201506.asp#a8) allows providers to bill for LARCs on an outpatient claim, even when treatment is provided on an inpatient basis.
* Medi-Cal managed care enrollees also have freedom of choice of family planning providers, a right which is protected under both state and federal law. Please see this [fact sheet on California's Protection of Choice for Family Planning Act](http://www.healthlaw.org/issues/reproductive-health/fact-sheet-californias-medi-cal-protection-of-choice-for-family-planning-act#.W6AgxehKjIU), which went into effect at the beginning of 2018.

Please make the necessary changes to [NAME OF HEALTH PLAN/IPA]’s policies and procedures as soon as possible to ensure that all Medi-Cal managed care enrollees have proper access to LARC devices and services. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

If you have any questions about this information, feel free to contact me at [CONTACT INFORMATION].

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]