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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 90 LCM-196

Date: December 3, 1990

Division: Medical Assistance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Insulin Pens

ATTACHMENTS: There are no attachments to this LCM

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of the availability of Insulin Cartridge Delivery Systems (insulin pens) as a potential means of reducing the need for home nursing visits for insulin dependent home care recipients. Home care providers are being notified separately of the availability of this device. Insulin pens were added to New York State Medicaid Non-Prescription Drug and Medical Surgical Supplies Lists effective August 1, 1990.

Insulin pens are self-contained insulin delivery systems that administer dosages of pre-mixed insulin. The entire unit is slightly larger than a fountain pen. The insulin is contained in pre-measured disposable cartridges. These devices have proven quite useful by insulin dependent patients who could self-administer the insulin but who have difficulty with the preparation of the dosage.

You are urged to review your caseload and identify insulin dependent patients for whom nursing visits are currently being used to prepare and administer insulin and who could take advantage of insulin pen delivery systems. Such clients would include those with limitations such as visual or reading impairments that make the preparation of insulin injections difficult or who have conditions such as arthropathies that make administering insulin with traditional syringes difficult but who could self-administer a dose if it were available in a more convenient or portable form. Patients determined to be potential beneficiaries of this technology should be encouraged to discuss this possibility with their physician to determine the feasibility of this approach.

Date December 3, 1990

Trans. No. 90 LCM-196

Page No. 2

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to Richard Alexander, Division of Medical Assistance, Bureau of Long Term Care at 1-800-342-3715, extension 3-5654.

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