



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Med-QUEST Division
Health Care Services Branch
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

November 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM

MEMO NOS.
ACS M11-12 [FFS]
BENX-1102 [QExA]

TO: Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) and QUEST Expanded Access
Hospitals and OB-GYNs

FROM: Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH
Med-QUEST Division Administrator *KF*

SUBJECT: ELECTIVE CAESAREAN SECTION – NOT COVERED

The purpose of this memo is to serve as a reminder that only medically necessary healthcare services are covered under our programs. Elective services are not covered. Accordingly, elective Caesarean section is not a covered service.

Elective Caesarean sections scheduled too early can result in a higher likelihood of newborn death, the newborn being admitted to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and life-long health problems for the newborn. The National Quality Forum has endorsed a measure of elective delivery prior to 39 completed weeks gestation, and this measure is among the proposed core set of Medicaid measures that is required under the Affordable Care Act.

We appreciate health plan efforts to reduce the rate of inappropriate Caesarean sections and to prevent iatrogenic prematurity.