To: Medi-Cal IPA Administrators and Medical Directors

From: IEHP – Provider Relations

Date: October 5, 2016

Subject: New Acupuncture Benefit for Medi-Cal

Pursuant to State Assembly Bill (SB833), **effective July 1, 2016,** Medi-Cal included acupuncture as a covered benefit. IEHP recently sent out DOFR updates to show IEHP to be at risk for this new benefit.

IEHP is contracting with American Specialty Health (ASH) to provide acupuncture services. There is no initial authorization or referral required for Members to initiate acupuncture services. Members can self refer to an ASH network Provider.

If you do receive a referral from one of your Providers, IEHP asks that you respond with a carve out letter utilizing the language as provided below:

> "This notice is to inform you that (Insert IPA Name), is not responsible for authorizing the above requested service(s). This is not a denial of service.
>
> Please contact Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) Member Services at (800) 440-4347 or TTY/TDD at (800) 718- 4347 or, American Specialty Network (ASN) at (800) 678-9133 or TTY/TDD at (877) 710-2746 for **ACUPUNCTURE** (putting needles in the skin to treat pain) for further assistance regarding the requested service(s).
>
> Este aviso es para informarle que IEHP Direct, bajo el contrato con Inland Empire Health Plan, no es responsable de autorizar el (los) servicio(s) solicitado(s) anteriormente(s). Este documento no es una negación de servicio.
>
> Por favor comuníquese a Inland Empire Health Plan Member Services al (800) 440-4347. Los usuarios de TTY/TDD deben llamar al (800) 718-4347. O, a American Specialty Network (ASN) al (800) 678-9133 los usuarios de TTY/TTD deben llamar al (877) 710-2746, para **ACUPUNTURA** (poniendo agujas en ciertos puntos en el cuerpo para aliviar dolor) para obtener información adicional sobre el (los) servicio(s) requerido(s)."

IPA's should redirect Member inquiries about the acupuncture benefit to the ASH website or IEHP Member Services. To view a list of contracted ASH Providers, please visit the following address: http://www.ashlink.com/ash/IEHP. ASH will verify Member eligibility for the benefit and assist Members with locating or scheduling with a network Provider.

Should you have any comments and/or questions please contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.