MEMORANDUM

TO: Participating Pharmacies
FROM: Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm. D.
Director, Pharmacy Management
SUBJECT: Zelnorm, pergolide products withdrawn from market

Zelnorm
HMSA would like to ensure you are aware that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation has agreed to take Zelnorm (tegaserod maleate) off the market.

A new safety analysis has determined that patients being treated with Zelnorm are subject to a higher chance of serious cardiovascular adverse events, including angina, heart attack and stroke. Additional information on the analysis and the withdrawal can be found on the FDA website at http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/tegaserod.htm.

Pergolide products
The FDA also recently announced that manufacturers of pergolide drug products, which are used to treat Parkinson’s disease, will voluntarily remove these drugs from the market because of the risk of serious damage to patients’ heart valves.

The products being withdrawn are Permax, the trade name for pergolide marketed by Valeant Pharmaceuticals, and two generic versions of pergolide manufactured by Par and Teva. More information on the recent studies and the withdrawal can be found at http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/pergolide.htm.

HMSA is notifying members who are currently using Zelnorm, as well as those using Permax and the two generic versions of pergolide from Par and Teva. Physicians who are currently prescribing these medications to members are also being notified.

If you have any questions about this notification, please call a Provider Teleservice Representative at 948-6330 on Oahu or 1 (800) 790-4672 from the Neighbor Islands for private business plans, or 948-6321 on Oahu or 1 (800) 771-0677 from the Neighbor Islands for the HMSA Plan for QUEST Members.