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Lubna Maruf, MD
Medical Director
QualChoice
11200 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dr. Maruf,

I am contacting you on behalf of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), the premiere membership organization for sleep professionals and centers. The AASM is a membership organization representing over 10,000 sleep medicine practitioners and sleep centers. The AASM improves sleep health and fosters high-quality, patient-centered care through advocacy, education, strategic research and practice standards.

An AASM sleep facility member recently alerted the AASM to a concern with reimbursements, associated with home sleep apnea tests (HSATs). Per the AASM member, their HSAT claims are being denied by QualChoice, because their sleep facility is accredited by the AASM as opposed to the Joint Commission. Upon review of the current QualChoice policy, Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Revision Date 05/01/2018 (Document: BI306.00), the policy states that “*Initial stand-alone/ambulatory HST does not require preauthorization but it must be performed by a Joint Commission accredited ambulatory Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility.*” The AASM realizes that The Joint Commission is one of the accrediting bodies that is referenced in many sleep testing policies, however, the AASM has offered accreditation for sleep facilities since 1977.

We encourage QualChoice to add AASM accreditation to the current Obstructive Sleep Apnea policy as an additional accreditation option for sleep facilities and independent sleep practices. The AASM’s Standards for Accreditation have been the gold standard by which the medical community and the public evaluate sleep medicine facilities, and we now have over 2,500 accredited facilities, in the U.S., Canada, and U.S. territories. The AASM accreditation is 100% sleep-focused and reflects a commitment to ensuring that patients with sleep disorders receive the highest quality of care, therefore, it should be included as an accreditation option in your policy.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact AASM Director of Health Policy Diedra Gray at (630) 737-9700 or dgray@aasm.org.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kirsch, MD
AASM President

cc: Sherene Thomas
Diedra Gray