BULLETIN NO. 1 –2004

TO: ALL LICENSED DISABILITY INSURERS, HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS, HOSPITAL MEDICAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS, REGISTERED INDEPENDENT REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS, TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER REGULATION 76, “ARKANSAS EXTERNAL REVIEW REGULATION

DATE: January 21, 2004

Rule and Regulation 76, “Arkansas External Review Regulation,” allows persons covered under health insurance plans to appeal denials of their claims to an independent review organization. Section 14 of Regulation 76 requires independent review organizations (“IROs”) and health carriers to provide the Department with an annual report regarding external review. The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide IROs and health carriers with specific reporting requirements.

The annual reports are due on March 1st annually. The Department will not specify or require a particular form to be used for reporting. IROs and health carrier may simply send a letter that provides the required information outlined in Section 14. The reports should be addressed as follows:

Arkansas Insurance Department
Associate Counsel Sara Farris
1200 West Third Street
Little Rock, AR 72201-1904

If you have any questions regarding this Bulletin or Regulation 76, please contact Associate Counsel Sara Farris at 501-371-2820 for sara.farris@mail.state.ar.us.

This Bulletin shall take effect when signed by the Commissioner.

(signed by Mike Pickens)___________________
MIKE PICKENS

(January 21, 2004)_________________________
DATE