



CMS LiveWire

✧ E-News for Office Administrative Personnel ✧

Health Care Financing Division
Colorado Medical Society

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Send us your comments,
ideas for articles, and
coding/billing tips &
tricks.


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REMINDER!
2007 ICD-9 Effective
10/1/06

Read Multiplan PPO Contract Carefully

The Office of General Counsel of Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) has received a number of complaints from physicians concerning MultiPlan, Inc. Typically, the physician complains that he or she is not a participating physician with a particular health plan, say, the "XYZ HMO." The physicians report that they have not signed an agreement with the XYZ HMO, but, when reviewing explanation of benefit (EOB) statements from the XYZ HMO, the EOB includes a statement that the physician has accepted a discounted fee as payment in full for the covered services as per the MultiPlan Agreement. The physician asks, "What authority gives MultiPlan the right to commit me to discounted fees for services rendered to XYZ HMO members?" Upon further examination, the physician discovers that he or she has indeed signed an agreement with MultiPlan, which gives MultiPlan the authority. [Read more...](#)

News from the AMA Private Sector Advocacy

To Build a Better Fraud Trap (Pioneer Press, September 24, 2006) Minnesota-based companies Ingenix and Fair Isaac have each developed tools to recognize and combat medical fraud. Ingenix, a division of UnitedHealth Group (United), is testing a tool it developed that helps predict fraud while Fair Isaac is promoting its own fraud-detection system. [Read more...](#) - AMA PSA 09/29/06

UnitedHealth vs. HCA: It's Ugly (Business Week Online, October 9, 2006) The ongoing battle between UnitedHealth Group and the Nashville-based hospital giant HCA, Inc., is getting nastier by the day. The two parties are back at the bargaining table. However, thousands of patients still have no idea or guidance as to where to go for treatment and physicians are scrambling to change hospitals. [Read more...](#) - AMA PSA Update 10/6/06

More on EFTs

EFTs are the way of the future, there's just no getting around it. Even the Federal government is mandating EFTs. Over the coming months we will provide you with links to useful EFT information as they are identified. These links will be posted on our Office Staff webpage under a new category titled, Electronic Transactions. To start you off, here are some links to EFT FAQ's:
AMA [FAQs](#) Regarding Electronic Funds Transfer Agreements - CMS 588 [EFT](#) Form Instructions - UHC Electronic Payments and Statements [FAQ](#).

Implementation of Revised 1500 Delayed

In last month's [CMS LiveWire](#) we reported that Medicare would begin accepting the revised CMS1500 beginning October 2, 2006. We received notice that additional requirements are necessary before the revised form can be implemented. The new implementation date is January 2, 2007. [Click here](#) to view the notice.

CO's Uniform Credential Application

Looking for a Word version you can download, complete and save to your computer? Go to www.cms.org, select "For Office Staff" from left margin & click on "Other Useful Sites", scroll down & select "Colorado Uniform Credentialing Application (.doc)" or [click here](#).



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!

CFMC Offers FREE Cultural Competency Training! - More than one million people in Colorado are considered minorities. In fact, according to the U.S Census Bureau, people of Hispanic or Latino origin make up 19.1 percent of the Colorado population, compared to 14.1 percent in the United States. [Read more...](#)

CODING TIP

ACOG Coding Recommendations For HPV Vaccine - ACOG's Coding Department has received several questions regarding correct coding for the new Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine that is available for females ages 9 to 26. *ACOG Practice Management & Coding Update, October 2006/Vol 6, Issue 10*

IN OTHER NEWS...

Flu Season [Resources](#)
Only 236 more days to get your [NPI](#)
Noridian to Mail [2007 Medicare Info](#) CD-ROM beginning 11/10/2006
2007 CAP [Sign-Up](#) - 10/1/06 to 11/15/06

October Releases:

[Med B News #231](#)
[Medicaid Bulletin](#)

Swamp Land - by R. Todd Welter, RT Welter & Associates

I read a lot of managed care agreements for our clients. Sometimes the payer knows I am reading the agreement and sometimes they do not. With some payers (and some clients) our client does the actual negotiations and I simply offer a review of the agreement, assistance and encouragement. Often times, I actually "wear the hat" of our physician practice/client and negotiate on their behalf. Either way, I read a lot of managed care agreements!

That being said, I have noticed that the more agreements I read the more they are the same. I see no reason why a single agreement cannot be put into place for all payers. Their agreements are 80 to 90% the same as it is. [Click here](#) to read more.

Choose A Reason - Any Reason - Then Plan Your Practice's Open House

Relocating your practice is not the only event that calls for an open house. Purchasing a laser for cosmetic surgery, celebrating a 10th anniversary in practice and adding a physician are just a few good reasons to host an open house. Once you have your reason, here's what you should do to ensure that your open house is a success. [Click here](#) to read, "How To Plan An Open House For Your Practice," by Joshua S Coren, DO, MBA. You can find articles on the same subject in the MGMA Knowledge Center by searching the Article Archive at <http://mgma.ga3.org/ct/tdNTWZ61uRmO/>.

Commercial Insurance Updates

Anthem - *BlueCard® Moving to New Claims Processing System* - Effective October 28, 2006, our BlueCard business will be on our new system. Here are some changes that will be based on the claims receipt date, not the date of service... [Click here](#) to access Anthem's 10/04/06 *Network Bulletin* for additional information.

UHC - *UHC & LabCorp Sign 10-year Contract* - UHC is pleased to announce that they have reached a 10-year agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) to be UnitedHealthcare's single *national* provider for laboratory services effective January 1, 2007. *Editor's Note: Information obtained from UHC's member website.* [Click here](#) to view UHC's letter to their contracted providers.

Aetna - *Aetna Introduces Powerful, Interactive Personal Health Record* - Powered by ActiveHealth's Patented CareEngine® System, Aetna's [Personal Health Record](#) provides personalized alerts to members and physicians about opportunities to improve care.

CIGNA - *The CIGNA for Health Care Professionals website just got better!* - Easier navigation, more complete plan information for all benefit types, including preventive & maternity, and much more. [Click here](#) for more information.

Workers' Compensation Update

Rule 18 Interpretive Bulletin Available - The Director's Interpretive Bulletin regarding the DOWC's Rule 18 Medical Fee Schedule, effective on 01/01/2007, has been published on the Division's web site. [Click here](#) to view.

Medicaid Update

The New Version of the Colorado Medical Assistance Provider Participation Agreement is Now Available! - The August 2006 version of the Provider Enrollment Application is now available in the Provider Services Enrollment section of the Department's website. [Click here](#) for more info.

Medicare Update

Change in Online Availability of NPI Application/Update Form - Beginning 09/20/06, the PDF version of the NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) will no longer be available for download on the CMS forms website, and there will not be a link to that form from the NPPES page. Health care providers can still, however, apply for National Provider Identifiers (NPI) in one of three ways. [Click here](#) for options.



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