

# 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 cod-  
ing/billing tips & tricks.

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**Only 39 more days un-  
til May 23, 2007!  
Do you have your NPI?**

Feel free to share this in-  
formation, but please ac-  
knowledge the source.

### SB 79, Passes House & Senate with a Combined 98-2 Vote!

Read more about this extraordinary accomplishment by reading the following Denver Business Journal article: <http://www.cms.org/ASAP/DBJsb79.pdf> - *Editor's Note: - [Click here to view the final version of SB 79.](#)*

### Medicine's Day at the Capitol by Colleen LeBourgeois, ENews Staff

After two & a half months of working at CMS, I still often feel like a tourist in a foreign country: wide-eyed & furrowing my eyebrows, wishing I'd remembered to bring my English-Medical Field Acronyms dictionary (pick a what? Oh, WCPIC...right). Medicine's Day at the Capitol confirmed once & for all that in January I moved not just to Denver but also, to an entirely different country. Click [here](#) for more of Colleen's story.

### Win an iPod! 2007 CMGMA Physician & Staff Salary Survey

CMGMA President, Mike Bergerson is announcing the name of the week three iPod winner! Jennifer Burnet, Office Manager for Montrose Surgical Associates, is the lucky winner! Members of CMGMA, CMS & the component medical societies are invited to participate & receive a FREE copy of the *2007 Colorado Healthcare Staff Salary Survey Report*. For those practices that contribute physician compensation, there will be a FREE copy of the *2007 Colorado Physician Compensation Survey Report!* Each week until April 23, a drawing of all survey respondents will be held, & the winning practice will receive an iPod. The iPods are available largely due to sponsorship from Compass Bank. You are eligible for the drawing as soon as your questionnaire is received. Submit your completed questionnaire right away to have more chances to win! No fewer than nine responses will be published for any compensation subcategory in order to protect confidentiality. Go to the CMGMA web site <http://www.cmgma.com/> & download your questionnaire today! The results will be published in July 2007.

### NPI Implementation Deadline Guidelines Clarified by CMS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it is implementing a contingency plan for covered entities (other than small health plans), e.g., physicians, large health plans, clearinghouses, etc. that will not meet the May 23, 2007 deadline for compliance with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) regulations under the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. [Click here](#) for information on the contingency plan.

*Editor's Note: CMS will host a National Roundtable on the recently released NPI Compliance Contingency Guidance. This toll-free call will take place from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., EDT, on Wednesday April 18, 2007. [Click here](#) for more info & to register.*

### "Q&A With the Health Plans" Goes On the Road!

You asked we heard! CMS, in conjunction with the Pueblo, Mesa, Mt. Sopris, Delta & Curecanti County Medical Societies, is pleased to announce the first ever in your area "Q&A With the Health Plans". Representatives from Aetna/HMS Colorado, Anthem, GreatWest Life, Rocky Mountain Health Plans, UnitedHealthcare/PacificCare & Medicare (Pueblo only) will be on hand to answer your questions. Please join us at the Parkview Hospital in Pueblo May 1, 2007 or the Grand Vista Hotel in Grand Junction May 17, 2007. Click [here](#) to register for the Pueblo meeting or [here](#) to register for Grand Junction. See you there!

## "BROWN BAG" TELECONFERENCES



April's Topic:

*CMS Banner Goals: Where EBM  
Meets Practice Viability*

*Hurry! Registration ends 12:00  
PM Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>!*

*Watch Your Email - May's Brown  
Bag Topic:*

*Recipe for Success - Basic Ingre-  
dients for Adding a New Physi-  
cian To Your Practice*

## APRIL HEALTH PLAN NEWSLETTERS

Click on the links below to ac-  
cess the current issues:

[Anthem](#)  
[Medicaid](#)  
[RMHP](#)

## Commercial Insurance Updates

**Anthem - NPI Required for ProviderAccess** - For continued access to claims, eligibility & secure message information on Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield's new ProviderAccess portal, you must have your NPI by May 23, 2007, & you must have shared your NPI with Anthem. Effective May 23, if Anthem doesn't have your NPI, your provider portal users won't be able to view information online.

**RMHP - Appropriate Use of 99058 Service(s) provided on an emergency basis in the office, which disrupts other scheduled office services, in addition to the basic service:** RMHP will consider these charges when the claim meets both the criteria of an emergency service & when the scheduled office services have been disrupted. An example of appropriate use would be an evaluation in the office of chest pain.

**UHC - United Lab Policy - AMA PSA Update April 3, 2007** - On March 9, the AMA sent a second letter to UnitedHealth Group about its out-of-network lab referral policy. The letter was in response to United's withdrawing the protocol (which included administrative fines & penalties) in New Jersey after the New Jersey Department of Banking & Insurance questioned the legality of the fines. The AMA requested that United withdraw the policy in all 50 states. To date, the AMA has not received a response from United. [Click here](#) to read AMA's letter.

## Medicaid Updates

**Billing Manual Updates** - In the Provider Services Billing Manuals section of the website, the Specialty Manuals sections have been split into three sections: Colorado-1500 Specialty Billing Information, HCBS Specialty Billing Information & UB-92 Specialty Billing Information. Click [here](#) to access the manuals.

## Medicare Updates

**Medicare Advantage Plans** - [Click here](#) for a list of Medicare Advantage Plans (HMO, PPO, PFFS, etc.) currently operating in Colorado. - *Editor's Note: Coming Soon! - PFFS Brown Bag Teleconference - Stayed tuned for Details!*

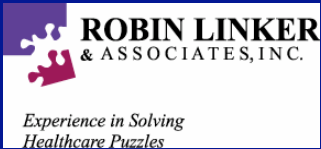
**MSP Claims** - Participating Medicare providers must not accept from the beneficiary any co-payment, or coinsurance, upon services rendered when the primary payer is an employer MCO insurance, or any other type of primary insurance. Providers must follow the Medicare Secondary Payer rules & bill Medicare as the secondary payer after the primary payer has made payment. Medicare will inform you on its remittance advice the amount you may collect from the beneficiary. [Click here](#) for more info & instructions.

**Top Reasons for Provider Application Delays** - A high percentage of applications are delayed because the correct information has not been supplied or submitted by the appropriate person. We hope to expedite the enrollment process by informing our provider community of the most common reasons an application can be delayed. [Click here](#) for tips on what you can do to avoid delays.

## Miscellaneous

**Save the Date! What & How of PQRI or How Do I Get My Bonus?** Practice Administrators bring your physicians to participate in an in-depth discussion with Dr. Mark Levine, Chief Medical Officer for Region VIII, on CMS' Physician Quality Reporting Initiatives (PQRI) & a panel discussion with local experts & physicians in the trenches on the development of the national quality measures, reporting process & bonus payment May 23, 2007. Click [here](#) for more information & to register.

**CME & CEU credit now offered for 2007 Group Practice Audio Conference Series** - The AMA Office of Group & Faculty Practice, in conjunction with the AMA Bookstore, is hosting the next audio conference, 'Appointment Scheduling & Patient-flow Improvement to Increase Quality Patient Care', on Thursday, April 26th. The second in our practice management series, the presenter will discuss how to tailor your office schedule to suit your physicians' work styles as well as how to improve patient satisfaction. Click [here](#) for more information.



### CODING CERTIFICATION PREPARATION

Robin Linker & Associates, Inc. are delighted to announce that they will be providing another Coding Certification preparation course created by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) in April. Click [here](#) for more information & to register.



### PRACTICE MANAGEMENT WEBINARS

In April, athenahealth will be hosting two different webinars that discuss the various advantages of a service-based approach to billing & practice management including NPI readiness, claims process efficiencies & more realized cash flow. Click [here](#) for more info & to register!



**COLORADO MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
"Advocating excellence in the profession of medicine."