

# 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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## CMS Practice Management Community

Join the Practice Management Community today! To access the communities, click [here](#). If you have not yet received your username/password, contact [enews\\_editor@cms.org](mailto:enews_editor@cms.org).

### Alert - Some Clearinghouses Stripping NPI from Claims

Some clearinghouses are stripping the National Provider Identifier (NPI) off the claim prior to its submission to Medicare. This could adversely affect Medicare providers in two ways. First, providers may be under the false impression that their claims are being successfully submitted to Medicare, through their clearinghouse, using an NPI. Second, without the NPI, these claims will not count toward PQRI participation for eligible professionals. Stripping of NPIs may also be occurring even though the NPI appears on remittance advice because some clearinghouses are adding the NPI to the remittance prior to sending to the provider.

CMS urges Medicare providers that use clearinghouses to check with their clearinghouse to assure NPIs are not being stripped from claims. If the provider determines that their clearinghouse is stripping NPIs from the claim, the provider may wish to consider other billing options.

CMS has also become aware that some clearinghouses are not forwarding to providers NPI informational claim error messages being sent by Medicare carriers. While claims are being paid today based on the legacy identifier, these messages are designed to help the provider understand the problems Medicare is encountering in attempts to crosswalk the NPI to legacy identifiers. Providers who use clearinghouses should make sure they are in fact receiving NPI informational claim error messages so that issues can be addressed timely.

### NPI Query Database Scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup> Release

CMS is extending the period of time in which enumerated health care providers can view their FOIA-disclosable NPPES data and make any edits they feel are necessary prior to our initial disclosure of the data.

We must build in time to resolve any errors or problems that may be encountered with edits that health care providers submit. Therefore, in order to ensure edits are reflected in the NPI Registry when it first becomes operational and in the first downloadable file, health care providers need to submit their edits no later than Monday, August 20, 2007. Click [here](#) for more info.

### Statewide NPI Repository

As we advised you in the June edition of the LiveWire, the county and state medical societies are happy to provide you with a forum for the statewide sharing of National Provider Identifiers (NPI). Some of you have already entered your NPI information, but in order to ensure the success of the statewide repository, we need more of you to participate. You will need to visit the site and enter your information. Based on feedback we received, improvements have been made to the site since it was first rolled out and it should be easier to use now. So please go to [npi.medconvene.com](http://npi.medconvene.com) and enter your NPI information.

### TrailBlazer Health Enterprises New Part B Carrier for Colorado

On August 2, 2007 CMS awarded the J4 A/B MAC contract to TrailBlazer. The states under TrailBlazer's jurisdiction are Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, & Texas. TrailBlazer will process Part A & Part B claims for over 3.8 million beneficiaries, 831 Medicare hospitals & approximately 105,800 physicians/practitioners. CMS expects the transition process to be completed in Spring 2008. We will keep you informed as information becomes available. Click [here](#) to read the Award Q&A's.

### What's New on the CMS Office Staff Webpage by Colleen LeBourgeois, ENews Staff

In our last issue of the *CMS LiveWire*, we announced that the gates of the Practice Management Community had opened. As everything is gradually moved into our new, gated community, we thought it was time for a front yard makeover. [Read on...](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

The next Quarterly Assembly of Office Administrative Personnel, *Implementation of SB 79*, will be held September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Watch your e-mail for details.

## "BROWN BAG" TELECONFERENCES



September's Topic:  
*Fraud & Embezzlement*

## AUGUST HEALTH PLAN NEWSLETTERS

Click on the links below to  
access the current issues:

[Anthem](#)  
[EDISS New!](#)  
[Medicaid](#)  
[UHC](#)

## "THE NEW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE"

athenahealth created a funny, short film we thought you would enjoy—"The New School Medicine." To watch the webisode or add it to your Web site or online newsletter, click [here](#).

## Coding Corner

Appropriate Use of Modifier -59



## VIVA Las Vegas!

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Coding, Billing & Compliance Summit for Charities! August 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> CMS Members & their Staff receive a \$50 discount off the standard rate. [Click here](#) for more info.

## Commercial Insurance Updates

**Anthem - New Vaccine Purchasing Program Added** - Anthem BCBS recognizes that physician practices are facing increasing costs in providing vaccines to your patients. Accordingly, Anthem is pleased to provide information about the Atlantic Health Partners Vaccine purchasing program to physicians participating in the PPO and HMO/POS networks. This is an addition to the vaccine purchasing program already available through Kelson Physician Partners.

**Aetna - Aetna Offers FREE Online CME/CEU Courses** - Aetna has developed a series of dynamic, interactive online courses for physicians & their office staff that can be accessed any time, anywhere. Click [here](#) to view a list of available courses & to register.

**UHC - UnitedHealthcare Offers FREE Web Seminars** - Do you have questions about UHC's EPS program? Would you like to know how to navigate their website with ease? Are you a billing service who wants to know what UHC can do for you & your clients? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions then click [here](#) to register for one of UHC's interactive web-based seminars.

## Medicare Updates

**Charges for Missed Appointments** - CMS policy is to allow physicians & suppliers to charge Medicare beneficiaries for missed appointments. However, Medicare itself does not pay for missed appointments, so such charges should not be billed to Medicare. Providers may not charge ONLY Medicare beneficiaries for missed appointments; they must also charge non-Medicare patients. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Discarded Drugs and Biologicals** - NAS encourages physicians to schedule patients in such a way that they can use drugs most efficiently. However, if a physician must discard the remainder of a vial or other package after administering it to a Medicare patient, the program covers the amount of drug discarded along with the amount administered. To read on, click [here](#).

**Vaccines & Vaccine Administration Reimbursement Under Medicare Part D** - This Special Edition MLN Matters article describes CMS/Medicare policy regarding provider reimbursement for Part D vaccines and vaccine administration in 2007 & 2008 under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D). Click [here](#) for more information.

**Provider Notification Reason Codes for Claims Disputed or Rejected by Supplemental Insurers** - Effective for claims processed on or after July 1, 2007, when claims crossed over by Medicare to a supplemental payer/insurer are rejected or disputed by that insurer, Medicare will add a standardized message to the notification to the provider. Click [here](#) for the message codes & more info.

## Miscellaneous

**Billing: Coding Made Easier - These days, good software makes good billing**, by Pamela L. Moore, *Physicians Practice July/August 2007* - With some 8,500 CPT codes, 16,000 or so diagnosis codes, untold numbers of supply codes, and endless rules about medical necessity and bundling, it's no wonder practices find coding confusing. [Read on...](#)

**HIPAA Privacy Complaints** - If you believe that a person, agency or organization covered under the HIPAA Privacy Rule violated your (or someone else's) health information privacy rights or committed another violation of the Privacy Rule, you may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Click [here](#) for instructions on how to file a complaint.

## Practice Management Community Tip of the Month

On the Practice Management Community home page, only recently updated discussions are displayed. To view past discussions, click "View All Topics," then "Show Archived." If you wish to post a response to an archived discussion, you will need to repost the discussion as a new discussion topic by clicking "Create New Topic."



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