



CMS LiveWire

✧ E-News for Office Administrative Personnel ✧

Health Care Financing Division
Colorado Medical Society

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Happy Holidays!

**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

Send us your comments,
ideas for articles, and coding/
billing tips & tricks.

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**Communities**

Practice Management
Community

SB 79 - What Does This Really Mean to Me? *By Marilyn Rissmiller, Director, Health Care Finance Division*

January 1, 2008 is not just the beginning of another new year, it is in fact a new beginning in contracting between physicians and health plans. A new article (37) has been added to the Colorado Revised Statutes (Title 25) to specifically address Contracts with Health Care Providers. We fondly refer to this provision as *Fair and Transparent Contracting*. [Read on...](#)

PQRI Provisions of the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Final Rule

The 2008 MPFS final rule with comment period includes provisions for CMS to use the PAQI fund to continue the PQRI, including bonus payments for satisfactory submission of data on the quality of covered professional services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries, in 2008. The rule also identifies 119 measures CMS has determined to be appropriate for eligible professionals to use to submit such data under the 2008 PQRI.

Dr. Mark Levine, Chief Medical Officer for Region VIII, has this to say, "The 2008 measures and some of the codes are different. I recommend that providers planning to participate—and those who participated in 2007—download the [2008 measures and specifications](#) to be sure they have the most current information." About the reporting period and bonus, Dr. Levine stated, "the reporting period is the whole year," and the amount of the bonus "is subject to the Senate appropriations bill and is likely to be negotiated as part of the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule currently going through Congress." The default bonus for 2008 is 1.5% (same as 2007), however, "there is a high likelihood that the appropriations bill could change this."

J4 A/B MAC Implementation News

Editor's Note: We will be adding a section to our [Office Staff Web site](#) by 12/31/07 that will contain links to the information you need to help your practice transition smoothly to our new Medicare Part B Carrier in March 2008. Be sure to visit the Web site often!

J4 A/B MAC Implementation Schedule - TrailBlazer will assume responsibility for the MAC Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas segments (states) based on the tentative segment-specific cutover dates below. [Click here](#) for the schedule.

J4 EDI Enrollment - Current EDI providers who have completed an EDI enrollment form with the outgoing contractor will **not** need to re-enroll and complete a new form. Existing EDI enrollment forms will be **transferred to TrailBlazer as the incoming MAC at cutover**. We will make basic EMC software available free of charge to any new provider who wishes to enroll. Providers will still be responsible for line costs for their use of EDI.

J4 Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Agreements Required - Providers and suppliers who wish to continue to receive Medicare payments via EFT **must complete a new Form CMS-588** prior to cutover to TrailBlazer. [More info...](#)

J4 MAC Provider Outreach Plans - TrailBlazer is committed to the communication of information regarding progress of the J4 implementation to all stakeholders. [More info...](#)

J4 MAC Listserves - TrailBlazer encourages providers to register for the J4 MAC Implementation News listserv as well as the state-specific listserv for their service area from the [J4 MAC Web site](#).

**"BROWN BAG"
TELECONFERENCES**



Consumer Directed High Deductible Health Plans (CDPH)

December 18, 2007

[Click here to register!](#)

**DECEMBER HEALTH PLAN
NEWSLETTERS**

Click on the links below to access the current issues:

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[UnitedHealthcare](#)

[Workers' Compensation - All](#)

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CODING CORNER

CPT® Network supplies the tools to quickly research a database of commonly asked coding questions and clinical examples. This newly improved Internet-based inquiry system allows you to search an online base of CPT code information compiled by the AMA CPT division. Subscribers also have the ability to submit an electronic coding inquiry straight to a CPT expert for a fast, accurate solution. The CPT Network's many features and variety of subscription packages have been designed to provide help and satisfy subscribers' needs.

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JUST FOR FUN

Cool Santa

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Commercial Insurance

CIGNA - CIGNA to Acquire Great-West Healthcare - CIGNA announced today that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Great-West Healthcare, the Healthcare Division of Great-West Life & Annuity, Inc. Under the terms of the agreement, CIGNA will pay approximately \$1.5 billion in cash to Great-West Life & Annuity and to fund approximately \$400 million of additional capital to support the acquired business. [Click here](#) for the press release.

RMHP - Balance Billing For RMHP Members Who Have A Capped Benefit For Preventive Care - Good Health Provider Edition Fall 2007 - The Professional Relations Department at RMHP receives numerous inquiries about how an office is to bill for a claim that is processed under a member's capped benefit. Certain RMHP Plans carry a benefit limitation cap for an annual exam, mammogram and PSA. [Learn how...](#)

Medicaid

Verifying Client Eligibility - Did you know that calling the Medical Assistance Program call center for client eligibility information does not guarantee the eligibility? In many instances, provider staff members spend unnecessary time on this non-guaranteed process. Other eligibility verification methods are guaranteed and both the Web Portal and FaxBack provide hardcopies for the client's file. Complete instructions can be found in the [December bulletin](#).

Medicare Updates

NPI ONLY Is Coming: Be Prepared! - Many Medicare physicians, non-physician practitioners and other providers and suppliers are not using NPIs in their Medicare claims, even in the primary provider fields (Billing/pay-to and Rendering). While you may continue to submit legacy identifiers in these fields until March 1, 2008, we **strongly encourage you to begin using your NPI** as well. [More info...](#)

Work Comp

Rule 8, Authorized Treating Physician - On January 1, 2008, Rule 8 will take effect implementing House Bill 07-1176. The legislation affords most injured workers the opportunity to select a treating physician from a designated provider list prepared by the employer. The same provisions afford an injured worker a one-time change of physician within that designated provider list, if the change is made within a specific time frame. [Read on...](#)

Miscellaneous

Yes Know-How (originally published 1/25/07) - Physician Practice Pearls 11/20/07 - I recently visited an upscale practice that takes pride in its customer service. The physicians are very approachable; indeed, everyone is friendly. Staff members take time to introduce themselves to new patients, management conducts regular patient satisfaction surveys, and the practice as a whole strives to honor the mission statement that commits to the best service. Great spirit. Admirable goals. But in practice? All around me, all day long, I heard this word: No. [Read on...](#)

Check This Out! Healthcare Visa® Gift Card - Highmark, Inc., an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, introduces the "Healthcare Gift Card" that can be used nationally to help pay for health expenses, products and wellness-related services. The card can be used to pay things like co-pays, prescriptions, dental care and vision care, as well as gym memberships and elective procedures. [Find out more...](#)
Editor's Note: We would like to thank Susan Nance, Practice Administrator for Blue Sky Neurology, for bringing this product to our attention!

Practice Management Community Tip of the Month - *By the members of OMAP* - Managing a medical practice is a challenge. In today's regulated environment, it is virtually impossible to be an expert in every aspect of practice management. Keeping up with the changes in terminology, legislation, coding rules and insurance industry standards can be more than a full time job. [Read on...](#)



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