

CMS LiveWire

✧ E-News for Office Administrative Personnel ✧

Health Care Financing Division
Colorado Medical Society

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Happy Valentine's Day!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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J4 MAC Cutover Date is 3/21/08!

Tips for a Successful J4 Transition

NPI Reminder!

NPI **ONLY** on or after May 23, 2008.

See "It's NPI Time!" page 2

CMS Welcomes Joan Efeld!

Please join us in welcoming Joan to CMS' Health Care Financing Division. As our Education Task Force Coordinator, Joan will work with the task force committee to research and implement educational topics fueling the practice viability crisis. Plans are also underway to develop an on-line credentialing course for administrative staff. You can contact Joan at 720-858-6319 or joan_elfeld@cms.org.

Calculating 2008 Medicare Reimbursement

We received the following question on the Practice Management Community: "When we multiply the total Colorado Medicare RBRVS Relative Values x 2008 conversion factor of 38.0870 the amt is much higher than we are being reimbursed. What steps have we left out?" Dr. Ben Vernon, CMS President Elect, responded stating, "For Medicare reimbursement, you are on the right track. (The Budget Neutrality Factor of 0.88 should be applied to Physician Work component and I bet you get close." Click [here](#) for the formula & additional information. *Editor's Note: You may find that your results do not exactly match the allowed amount indicated on Noridian's 2008 Physician Fee Schedule. This is due to rounding of the calculations. (Next Month - The Affect of the Budget Neutrality Adjustor On Private Health Plan Contracts)*

Guidelines for Providing Health Services to Individuals with Limited English Proficiency - *Copiscope No. 103 Sept 2001 - Reprinted with Permission*

The following information reflects guidelines published by the Office of Civil Rights detailing how to provide health services to individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). The guidelines were effective as of August 30, 2000 and offer assistance in meeting the existing obligations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (which has been enforceable for more than 30 years). We recognize meeting these guidelines for your patient with LEP can involve some significant new costs; these costs could even exceed a physician's compensation for an office visit.

The Guidelines

The guidelines state that all providers who receive any federal financial assistance (such as participation in Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS, etc.) must comply with guidelines for all patients in their practice, including those who do NOT receive federal assistance. [Read on...](#)

CMS Supports SB 138 - Full Disclosure Of Physician Designations Made By Health Care Entities *Colorado Medicine, Volume 104, Number 7*

Profiling and rating of physicians by both commercial payers and the federal government is expanding. These programs will continue to grow because employers and patients want information to make sound decisions. However, since information on physicians compiled by health plans is all-powerful and has the ability to promote or demote a physician on the basis of the health plan compilations, SB 138 sets minimum requirements to ensure accurate and fair physician rating systems. [Read on...](#)

J4 A/B MAC Implementation News - CMS Announces Final J4 MAC Implementation Schedule

CMS has released the final announcement that TrailBlazer will assume responsibility for the Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas J4 MAC segments (states) based on the segment-specific effective dates. Because TrailBlazer currently has responsibility for processing over 75 percent of the J4 MAC workload as the Part A Fiscal Intermediary (FI) for the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas as well as the Part B carrier in Texas, it is anticipated that the impact to those providers already served by TrailBlazer will be minimal. Click [here](#) for more info & to view the schedule.

COLORADO LAW REVISITED
February 21 or 22, 2008

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

**"BROWN BAG"
TELECONFERENCES**



February 19, 2008
J4 A/B MAC Transition

Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

Attention Physicians & Office Managers!

Medicine's Day @ the Capitol
February 25, 2008

Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

CMGMA SPRING CONFERENCE

March 13 & 14, 2008

Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

CODING CORNER

Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Billing Code Update to Medicare CR5878

This article announces that the 2008 MPFSDB includes two new CPT codes for smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling services; replacing the temporary HCPCS G codes (G0375 and G0376) currently in use for billing these services.

FEBRUARY HEALTH PLAN NEWSLETTERS

[Anthem](#)
[Medicaid](#)
[UHC](#)

JOKE OF THE DAY

What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?



Hogs & kisses!

Commercial Insurance

UHC Updates Preventive Medicine Reimbursement Policy - UHC has announced it will reprocess claims denied for this reason between August 27, 2007 and December 8, 2007. The policy now allows for separate reimbursement for preventive medicine services and acute care Evaluation and Management (E&M) services on the same date of service. Click [here](#) for more info. **Editor's Note: Congratulations to the Colorado Medical Society's UHC Physician Advisory Committee for their hard work on behalf of all Colorado physicians to resolve this issue!**

Medicaid

Go Green and Enjoy the Benefits of Direct Deposit - Did you know that providers who receive payments through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) receive their payments up to a week sooner than those receiving paper checks (warrants)? EFT eliminates payment delays due to inclement weather or post office mishaps.

Don't worry, the payment transfer process is one way—from us to you; the agreement you sign does not allow us to withdraw funds from your account. Begin receiving payments via EFT today! Complete the form located in the Provider Services [Forms](#) section.

Need to update your bank account information? Using the same form noted above, simply indicate "Change" in the top-right corner and complete the form as indicated. *Please contact the Department at 303-866-4372 with any EFT questions.*

Medicare Updates

It's NPI Time! - Effective March 1, 2008 a National Provider Identifier (NPI) is required in the primary provider identifying fields (Items 24J and 33a or their electronic equivalent) & on all Medicare Part B claims submitted on or after March 1, 2008. Claims will be rejected if submitted without an NPI in the primary identifier fields. Providers may continue to submit NPI/legacy pairs or only NPIs in these fields until May 23, 2008. Click [here](#) for paper & electronic claim billing guidelines.

Modification to the Model Medicare Redetermination Notice (for Partly or Fully Unfavorable Redeterminations - CR 5836, from which this article is taken, modifies the Reconsideration Request Form that is included with the model Medicare Redetermination Notice (for partly or fully unfavorable redeterminations), to clarify the minimum set of elements on the form that you must complete in order for the request to be considered valid for reconsideration. Click [here](#) for instructions.

Miscellaneous

Should You Outsource Your Billing *Physicians Practice Pearls 01/24/08* - Yes. No. Maybe. How's that for addressing the question? There are pros and cons to either approach, but the actual decision should rest on the circumstances of *your* practice. [Read on...](#)

ALERT! DEA Number Scam in Colorado - *Editor's Note: We received the following email from a medical practice in Denver on an issue you should be aware of.* I wanted physicians in Colorado to be aware of a current scam, which attempts to acquire a physician's DEA number. A caller phoned our office, identifying herself as a "Pharmacist at Target" and requesting Dr. Kildare's (not real name) DEA number. Our office staff has been trained not to give out ANY information—personal or professional—to "anonymous" callers; consequently, she responded that we would have to verify the phone number and call "the pharmacist" back, at which point the caller said, "Isn't this the office of Dr. Kildare?" We did a *69 caller ID and the call had been placed from a residence.

While this may seem obvious and many physicians may already have counseled their staff to be on the alert for these types of callers, I felt it reasonable to report this to you and our members.

Practice Management Community Tip of the Month

Stay on top of J4 A/B MAC Implementation updates! After logging in to the Practice Management Community, click "J4 A/B MAC Implementation" in the upper right hand corner of the main page to enter the Neighborhood. Once you've entered the Neighborhood, you'll find News, Resources, Links, and FAQs...all specific to the recent change!

If you've forgotten your username and/or password, please e-mail Colleen LeBourgeois at Colleen_LeBourgeois@cms.org.



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