



CMS LiveWire

✧ E-News for Office Administrative Personnel ✧

Health Care Financing Division
Colorado Medical Society

January 15, 2006
Volume 1, Issue 4



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

7351 Lowry Blvd
Denver, CO 80230

PHONE:
(720) 858-6313

FAX:
(720) 859-7509

E-MAIL:
enews_editor@cms.org

WEBSITE:
[www.cms.org/officestaff/
home.html](http://www.cms.org/officestaff/home.html)



Watch For Our
Practice
Management
Questionnaire!

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

2006 Medicare Updates Seminar Announced

Our 1st Quarter 2006 Quarterly Assembly of Office Administrative Personnel (QAOAP) meeting has been scheduled for February 16th. There will be two sessions during the day, each one consisting of presentations from Noridian Administrative Services and the Medicare Regional Office. Topics include coding updates, Part D updates, NPI information, and more. For the first time we are offering teleconferencing as a means to participate at this meeting. Please [click here](#) for more information and to download a registration form.

Office Managers Wanted!

The Office Manager Advisory Panel (OMAP) contributes to the success of the Claims Resolution Assistance Project, as well as ideas for QAOAP meeting topics. We are currently looking to expand this panel. To ensure optimum participation, we hold our meetings via teleconference. Let your opinions be heard! [Click here](#) for information on how to become a panelist and for a more details.

2006 CPT Coding Update

We have compiled a comprehensive (but not complete) listing of CPT coding changes, effective for 2006. Refer to your 2006 CPT for complete information on the coding changes affecting your practice. [Click here](#) to download this information and be sure to attend our February seminars for Medicare specific changes and information.

Next month...2006 HCPCS Coding Update.

Medicaid...Help on the Horizon?

Have you been having problems with Medicaid or CHP+? You are not alone and the CMS Public Affairs Division would like to help. This legislative session provides us the opportunity to fix our badly broken Medicaid and CHP+ systems, but we first have to prove that they *are* broken. We are looking for the top three issues you are experiencing with Medicaid/CHP+. Please [click here](#) to begin downloading our Medicaid Issues Form. Complete the form ASAP and fax it back to us.

Be Part of the Solution

The legislative session has just begun, and CMS needs more office managers and practice administrators willing to testify before our lawmakers on insurance issues that negatively impact physician offices on a daily basis. You needn't be an expert on how the legislative process works, just on what happens in your office. It's easy, it's fascinating, and yes, sometimes it's even fun! If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact [Diana Protopapa](#) at 720-858-6315. Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

UHC Premium Designation Program

Having problems with UHC's Premium Designation Program? [Click here](#) for help.

Additional Medicare Information

FREE ERA Software

Medicare is offering free software to providers that will translate the ERA data and print the information in the Standard Paper Remittance format. The software can be utilized for any ERA from any payer transmitting ERA's in the 4010 or 835 Professional formats. [Click here](#) to download the software.

2006 Medicare Payments

[Click here](#) to view the Medicare recommendations to congress regarding the physician fee schedule payment update for 2006.

Medicare 2ndary Payer

How to bill electronic MSP claims when the provider has a contract with the primary payer for a provider discount. [Click here](#)

CMS.GOV Revamped

Visit our [web site](#) and click on the MEDICARE icon to update your bookmarks.

JUST FOR THE -FUN OF IT-

More [actual excerpts](#) from medical records:

"The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of gas and crashed."

"Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital."

"Rectal exam revealed a normal size thyroid."

Commercial Insurance Updates

-Aetna Bilateral Modifier Usage

To report bilateral procedures to Aetna, providers are requested to submit the procedures on two separate lines with a left and right modifier. If the procedure is submitted on one line with modifier 50, the system does not recognize it. Aetna follows Medicare's fee schedule on whether a procedure is bilateral or unilateral.

-Anthem Vaccine Assistance

Are you looking for a way to control your costs for vaccines? If so, Anthem may be able to help. Anthem has partnered with Kelson Physician Partners, Inc. to offer its providers the Vaccine Purchasing Program. With the exception of State supplied vaccines for Medicaid and indigent children, the Program can be used for all of your patients. [Click here](#) for more info.

-PacifiCare Provider Portal

Did you know you could check member eligibility and your claim status on the PacifiCare Provider Portal? This is an efficient online service that is available for all PacifiCare contracted providers. Get online to take advantage of no wait time on the Provider Portal and eliminate your time on the phone with Customer Service! If you are not a registered user, simply go to PacifiCare's [Web Site](#), click on "Provider", then "Register", and you will be directed to the registration page. For more information [e-mail](#) or call 303-714-3309.

Medicaid Updates

January 2006 bulletin now available - contains info on the 2006 codes that Medicaid will accept. [Click here](#)

Medicare Part B Updates

2006 Oncology Demonstration Project & Documentation and Coding Guidelines for the demonstration - 81 new "G" codes added to facilitate the collection of the demonstration data. See [SE0588](#) and [SE0589](#).

Coding/Reporting Guidelines for the New Nursing Facility & Domiciliary CPT Codes. [Click here](#)

Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) - Sixteen new final LCDs have been posted to the Noridian Administrative Services (NAS) web site. [Click here](#)

Multiple Procedure Reductions for Certain Diagnostic Imaging Procedures - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is phasing in a payment reduction of the technical component (TC) of selected multiple diagnostic imaging procedures with a 25 percent reduction in calendar year (CY) 2006 and a 50 percent reduction in CY 2007. [Click here](#)

New Waived Tests - 14 new in-office lab tests added. [Click here](#)

Medicare Part D Updates

-Formulary Finder

The CMS [Formulary Finder](#) provides a list of all Part D plans in a given state and links directly to a plan's home page for a complete formulary. It also provides general information about a plan's drug utilization and appeals process. In mid-January the CMS Formulary Finder will be linked directly to individual plan formularies. It is important to note that during January all plans will have a transition process that will allow enrollees to continue their current drugs. During this period, the physician can work with their patients to adjust drugs to new formularies or request formulary exceptions.

-Weekly Provider Conference Calls on Part D

Calls will be scheduled every Tuesday from 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST, beginning January 3, 2006. Each call will be a 60-minute conference to enable discussions of issues and resolutions involving the Part D program. Attendees are encouraged to use this time to ask questions and describe problems so that CMS can continue to improve the Part D program. To participate in any of these calls, dial the conference phone number 1-800-619-2457 and reference the password "RBDML".

