

# CMS LiveWire

✧ E-News for Office Administrative Personnel ✧

Health Care Financing Division  
Colorado Medical Society

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FROM YOU!**

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## House Approves Medicare Payment Changes *MGMA August 1, 2007*

On Wednesday, August 1, the House of Representatives voted 225-204 to approve H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP) of 2007. This legislation, which includes reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Medicare Advantage reforms and a tax increase on tobacco products, also includes provisions that eliminate the scheduled 9.9 percent Medicare physician payment reduction for 2008 and the 5 percent reduction for 2009. Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

## Important Information for Medicare Providers

*Starting September 3, 2007, Medicare Carriers and DME MACs Will Begin Transitioning their Systems to Start Rejecting Claims when the NPI and Legacy Provider Identifier cannot be found on the Medicare Crosswalk.* Since May 29, 2007, Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries, as well as Part B CIGNA Idaho and Tennessee, have been validating NPIs and Legacy Provider Identifier pairs submitted on claims against the Medicare NPI Crosswalk. Between the period of September 3, 2007 and October 29, 2007, all other Part B carriers and DME MACS will begin to turn on edits to validate the NPI/Legacy pairs submitted on claims. [Read on...](#)

## Required Use of Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads for Outpatient Drugs Prescribed to Medicaid Recipients on or After October 1, 2007

This issue impacts all physicians, practitioners, and other providers who prescribe Medicaid outpatient drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, in States that reimburse for prescriptions for such items. Pharmacists and pharmacy staff especially should be aware of this requirement as it may affect reimbursement for prescriptions. The requirement is applicable regardless of whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payer of the prescription being filled. Click [here](#) for the details. *(See related information page 2.)*

## United Responds to PAC Concerns Related to UHC's Screening EKG Policy

The US Preventative Task Force and the American College of Cardiology has previously reviewed the clinical evidence for the performance of screening EKG studies and has found that the published evidence does not support the use of screening EKGs in low risk persons. This determination has been in place for many years. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has had a policy in place since December 2004 to not reimburse for screening EKG studies. [Read on...](#)

## ENS, Inc. Expands Its Customer Service Team To Address Service Concerns

In July the Colorado Medical Society began receiving worrisome calls from our members who were experiencing significant electronic claim submission issues ranging from claims not being received by the health plan, the health plan rejecting claims for missing information, Customer Support's inability to resolve issues brought to their attention and others. [Read](#) ENS' response to our members' concerns.

## What the Latest BCBS Settlement Information Means to Colorado Physicians

Colorado physicians are only eligible for one (1) share of this settlement fund because we were part of the previous Anthem/Wellpoint settlement that included all BlueCard business for Colorado. Even though you may have received some direct payment from one or more of the Blue plans listed in the notice, Colorado physicians are still only eligible to receive 1 share in this settlement. Click [here](#) for more information.

## REGISTER NOW!

The next Quarterly Assembly of Office Administrative Personnel, *Implementation of SB 79*, will be held September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

## "BROWN BAG" TELECONFERENCES



October's Topic:  
*Work Comp for Beginners*

Watch your e-mail for details!

## SEPTEMBER HEALTH PLAN NEWSLETTERS

Click on the links below to access the current issues:

[Anthem](#)  
[Medicaid](#)  
[Medicare](#)

## CODING CORNER

### 2007 ICD -9 Updates

### ANTHEM FALL PROVIDER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Reserve your seat now!

## JOKE OF THE DAY

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"The healthiest part of a donut is the hole. Unfortunately, you have to eat through the rest of the donut to get there!"

## Commercial Insurance Updates

**Anthem - New CPT codes for 2007** - This year the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented a "budget neutrality adjustor formula" for 2007 work RVUs. Originally, Anthem also implemented the "budget neutrality adjustor formula" which we realized was done in error. On July 13, we corrected the system and loaded the RVUs that had been taken straight from the "Fully Implemented Non-Facility & Facility Total" columns of the CMS file ([RVU07A4](#)) without any formula applied. We realize this had an unintended, adverse impact on our providers for these codes. [Read](#) on...

**CIGNA - CIGNA to Offer Online Precertification this Fall** - CIGNA HealthCare will begin providing online precertification this fall to more than 365,000 physicians in its national network. The new service will be powered by NaviNet®, one of the nation's leading provider-communications portals, from NaviMedix, Inc. This new capability will make it faster and easier for providers across the country to submit and check the status of precertification requests for most inpatient services, certain outpatient services, and injectable medications. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Medicaid

**Rx Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad** - September Colorado Medical Assistance Program [Bulletin](#) - The Department is waiting for the final rules from CMS on the Rx Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad. We will communicate any changes in policy or procedure in future Colorado Medical Assistance Bulletins. (See *related article page 1.*)

## Medicare Updates

**PQRI Letter to Medicare Beneficiaries** CMS has posted a [letter to Medicare beneficiaries](#) with important information about the PQRI on the CMS website. The letter is from Medicare to the patient explaining what the program is, and the implications for the patient. Physicians may choose to provide a copy to their patients in support of their PQRI participation.

**New Beneficiary-Oriented Publication on Medicare Drug Coverage Under Medicare Part A, Part B and Part D** - A new partner tip sheet, "Information Partners can Use: Medicare Drug Coverage Under Medicare Part A, Part B and Part D," has been developed to provide an overview on the drugs covered within each of the Medicare program components. This [tip sheet](#) was requested to help clarify drug coverage for providers and partners assisting beneficiaries with chronic diseases and drug coverage enrollment.

## Miscellaneous

**Counties Announce iPod Winners** - Thanks to all those who participated in the Statewide NPI Repository! The iPod winners are: Brent Keeler, MD (Aurora); Orthopaedic Physicians of Colorado (ADEMS); Howie Wolf, MD (Boulder); Thomas Reed, MD (Denver); Asthma and Allergy Associates (El Paso); Richard Kingston, MD (Mesa); Donald Luebke, MD (Pueblo); and Matthew Goodstein, MD (Mt. Sopris). For instructions on creating your practice profile, click [here](#).

**AMA Audio Conference on Hiring and Retaining Top Performing Employees** - The AMA's Office of Group and Faculty Practice will host a 90-minute audio conference titled, "Hiring and Retaining Top Performing Employees for Better Customer Service & Patient Care," on Thursday, October 4th. To learn more and register, please visit the [AMA's Group Practice Web site](#).

**Identity & Authenticity: A Dynamic Duo You Need to Meet** - *HIPAAWire, June 1, 2007* - The HIPAA security rule not only demands that you develop procedures to identify people with access to your patients' PHI. It also mandates that you authenticate that access. But what does that really mean for you? Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Practice Management Community Tip of the Month

To be notified at your external e-mail account when you receive CoP mail, the default setting within your CoP mail preferences must be changed. To make this change, login to the Practice Management Community, click "CoP mail," then click "Preferences." Under the question "Would you like to be notified at your external e-mail account if there are new messages waiting for you?" click "Yes," then "Update." Remember, it won't be too long before "Special Alerts" are delivered to CoP mailboxes only. For more information, please read ["Makeover"](#) (CMS LiveWire, August 15<sup>th</sup>).



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"Advocating excellence in the profession of medicine."