

DR. KNOW

We won't change the way you do billing...we'll change the way you do business!

An e-newsletter created by **PLEXUS HEALTH SOLUTIONS, INC.**

PLEXUS SELECTED FOR BETA TESTING SITE

Began 2-9-09

Plexus has been chosen by our software vendor to be a beta test site for a software update. This update was downloaded on Saturday, February 7 and is active for use as of Monday, February 9.

This is quite exciting because Plexus has spent thousands of dollars in the past to have custom reports written for the software to accommodate client needs. And as it turns out, we are the largest custom report generator in the software system. In the third quarter of 2008 we were asked to supply the details of these customizations and they would be implemented in the reporting module.

This will save us quite a bit each year in custom report support.

Besides the reporting a new product called PhoneTree is open for our use. This will take the patients in the scheduler and make a confirming phone call. The system will flag this reminder call.

THE STATE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS

Is Medicine the Next Bailout?

Plexus belongs to many billing and medical consult associations and lately there have been a lot of industry issues flying non-stop on the wires about new problems arising.

This data was taken from a national medical listserv that Plexus belongs to, it is actual data that our peers are seeing in the industry and reporting to colleagues.

*Pts are losing health benefits due to loss of jobs

*Electronic claims are not being downloaded by the insurance carriers on a timely basis

*BCBS of NH bounced a \$26,000 check to a medical provider

*Union contributions are not being paid timely causing lapses in coverage

*Insurance carriers changing the terms of coverage and billing requirements

*Employer cost containment that reduces benefit levels to pts

*Payment turnaround time went from 14-20 days to 6-8 weeks

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You can view past issues of this newsletter on our website.

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*Bogus denials that must be appealed, extending payment time

*Retroactive insurance recoupment due to changes in coverage

*More pts going on Medicare and Medicaid

*Huge delays in insurance credentialing

One of our consultant peers said that the medical industry will be the next Wall Street and that her medical clients are spending 25% of their profits just to collect A/R. This makes Plexus look like a pretty good deal!!!!

EMR STIMULUS

H.R. 1 Has Billions for Health IT

In an article written by Neil Versel called *Stimulus Plan Could Open the Door to Millions in New Spending to Encourage EMR Adoption*, he wrote that the main stimulus bill would provide \$20 billion for health IT. Another \$3 billion would go for preventive care and wellness. A Senate version of this bill calls for \$23 billion for health IT. In any event this is an increase from the amount that President Obama pledged during his campaign.

The point of his article boils down to this fact stated by Michael S. Barr, M.D., VP of practice advocacy and improvement for the American College of Physicians. He states, all this wrangling over how to spend billions of dollars means one important thing to practices. "Those who have made the decision (to adopt an EHR) but haven't made the purchase may want to wait to see how this plays out." This is something to consider.

MEDICAL BILLER'S DAY

March 26, 2009

This is not a nationally recognized day, but Gov. Doyle is considering it and we accept chocolate 365 days a year.

PLEXUS IS SAVING YOU \$\$\$\$

Great Reasons Why You are a Client

Plexus strives to be a cost effective partner for your practice. Here are some reasons.

*We aim to keep your rejected claims down – way below the industry standard of 30%.

You can monitor this from your Rejected Claims Report in your month end booklet.

*Our goal is to be completely paperless and have a payment turnaround time of less than 21 days.

*We provide electronic scheduling that interfaces with the billing side, to make your staff more efficient.

*Our reporting is great – you want it – we've (usually) got it!

*Our security is second to none (in our opinion). We do everything we can to make sure your practice and your patients' PHI is safe and available only to you.

In the future we will provide EMR software that interfaces with the billing software and e-prescribe abilities.

IRS CAN LEVY MEDICARE PAYMENTS

Did You Know This?

If you are a Medicare provider and you are in arrears owing any taxes to the IRS your Medicare payments are subject to the Federal Payment Levy Program by 15% or the amount of money owed if less than 15%. The IRS Code Section 6331(h) authorizes this collection of funds.

If you fall into this category, the Medicare EOB will reflect the federal levy amount and a phone number to call to provide a resolution to the issue.