

# 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.**

## CRISIS AVERTED *Congress Comes Through*

As you know by now, Congress has found a way to fund the Medicare plan so that physicians were not affected by the 10.6% reduction in fees.

Plexus kept you informed via emails on the progress of this and notified you of the ten day hold on all Medicare funds at the beginning of July, in the hope that this issue would be resolved quickly.

It was resolved timely and there will not be any refunds, adjustments, or errors in payments to contend with.

## PHYSICAL THERAPY *Use KX Again*

Plexus PT, OT and SP clients, you can again begin to use the KX modifier on exhausted Medicare benefits when the patient meets the criteria. This benefit was temporarily suspended and is again usable as of 7-1-08 through 12-31-08.

## ICD-9 CODES *Use as of 10-1-08*

It is that time of year again when you will begin to use the 2009 diagnosis codes. As of October 1, 2008, all carriers will accept these new codes.

Please be sure you are aware of the changes and incorporate them into your encounter form.

It is our understanding that there are 331 new codes and 55 revised codes.

## IDENTIFICATION *Ask For It*

A patient purchased an I.D., social security card and insurance card by illegal means in a foreign country. He's here using this information to obtain "the best healthcare in the world". The fact that he offered this information to the Doctor is amazing in the first place.

Because multiple forms of I.D. were obtained it is very difficult to weed out these

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

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these people from your practice.

There isn't a measure that you can use to insulate your practice from this type of identity theft other than to personally know your patient.

If you have any suggestions on prevention of this type of fraud please share them with us.

## TAXONOMY CODES

### *What Are They?*

When you filled out the crosswalk information for Medicare to notify them of your NPI you were asked for a taxonomy code. Ever wonder what this number is?

It is a non-medical code set designed to use in the classifying of health care providers according to provider type or practitioner specialty in an electronic environment. That sure cleared it up for me!

## MEDICAID PRIOR AUTH'S

### *Changes*

As of October 1, 2008 there will be changes in the prior authorization (PA) process for the State of Wisconsin.

These changes include; establishing deadlines for providers to respond to returned PA requests and amendments plus a revision to all PA forms.

The changes were made to do the following; provide efficiencies for both providers and the State and to accommodate changes required for full NPI implementation and align with HIPAA terminology.

All Title XIX providers will be sent a separate UPDATE by the State as soon as it is published with further details about these changes.

## LUNG CANCER

### *WOW Stats*

According to an article in Code Trends a newsletter published by the Medical Association of Billers, lung cancer will have an estimated 215,020 new cases in 2008. The lifetime probability of developing this cancer is 1 in 16 for women and 1 in 13 for men.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in both men and women and yet 85 to 90 percent of these cases could have been prevented if the patient had not smoked.

## RAPID GROWTH

### *Several New Clients*

Plexus has experienced rapid growth within the last month. In order to properly ramp up for this we have had to hire a couple new employees.

We are getting back into optometry and expanding our expertise in podiatry, rheumatology, mental health and therapy areas.

Because of our organization and internal infrastructure with protocols in place, you - our current clients will not realize any change in your usual billing routines.

Plexus would like to thank you for your trust and support and hope that you realize we come in every day with the determination to be accurate, efficient, with superior patient services.

Communicating with you via several different methods; phone, Questionnaire, fax, blue bag and email, is very important for us also.