

DR. KNOW

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

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

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TRANSITION OF AUTHORITY

Office for Civil Rights to Take Over

As of August 3, 2009 the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has been given the authority by Secretary Sebelius of the Health and Human Services (HHS) to oversee the administration and enforcement of the HIPAA Security Rule.

This transition is expected to be seamless and impose no interruption of management or the processing of complaints filed prior to the change.

New security complaints may now be sent to the OCR website at: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/

WI STATE BUDGET

2009-2011 Biennial State Budget

The recently enacted budget includes a requirement that the Dept. of Health Services (DHS) find \$600 million in Medicaid savings. The DHS has unveiled the framework of the strategy to accomplish this goal, yet the plan is not yet complete. The plan includes:

- An evidence-based initiative to align Medicaid payments to “value, not volume”, with a target implementation date of January 2010.
- Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a broad project to provide Medicaid services to a six-county region in SE WI to begin July 2010.
- Reimbursement rate reductions.

Other parts of the proposal involve pharmacy, long-term care, hospitals and managed care plans.

e-Prescribing

Get the Government Incentives Now

Plexus clients can start obtaining that incentive money right now! You can use our system to apply the necessary coding and relay prescriptions to the patients preferred pharmacy. It's easy for both you and the patient and will eliminate errors.

Give us a call and find out how easy and cost effective this benefit really is.

NEW CHIROPRACTIC LAWS

Effective July 1, 2009

Chiropractors now have a “duty to refer” and employees of chiropractors who are trained in clinical areas will be required to obtain a certificate from the state as part of a range of new laws signed by Gov. Jim Doyle as part of the new state budget.

The Wisconsin Chiropractic Association proposed the law changes. The revisions in the professions clinical and ethical standards will impact every chiropractor in Wisconsin.

Some of the new laws include:

- As of 7-1-09, Chiro’s have a duty to refer patients who cannot be treated by chiropractic means to a physician through either a written or oral referral.
- As of 8-1-10, Chiro Assistants that have state approved clinical training through various programs must become registered with the state in order to continue providing services.
- As if 1-1-12, graduating chiro students seeking a license in WI will be required to pass a WI clinical licensure exam in addition to part IV of the national boards.
- Other changes include renaming some terms of personnel.

Wisconsin will become the 27th state to require Chiro’s to refer patients. The law completely protects the right of a Chiro to provide maintenance, supportive or wellness care to the patient.

From an article in *The Wisconsin Chiropractor*, August 2009

STATE SUPREME COURT DECISION

Bystander Damages

In a decision handed down by the Wisconsin Supreme Court established that a bystander who witnesses an act of medical malpractice may not seek damaged for emotional distress.

HEALTHCARE REFORM

Hold on It’s Coming...

As Congress continues to press forward on their reform for our industry we take note that there is one piece of proposed legislation that may be of some benefit and agreeable to many.

HR 2891, the Access to Frontline Health Care Act of 2009, would create a new loan repayment program for medical professionals.

Basically, this says that providers trained in healthcare specialties would commit to practice in a geographic area with a shortage of specialty healthcare providers for at least two years in exchange for student loan repayment assistance.

The two Congressmen who proposed this idea are hoping to get it included in reform legislation.

WHERE IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE CARE IN AMERICA?

You’ll Be Surprised

Ever been to Texas? Specifically McAllen, Texas in Hidalgo County?

This county has the lowest household income in the country, yet the unemployment rate is less than 10%. They call themselves the Square Dance Capital of the World. But, it is one of the most expensive healthcare markets in the country.

In an article published June 1, 2009 in *The New Yorker* magazine and written by Atul Gawande, you will be shocked and amazed how the local medical community is unaware of the designation they have had bestowed upon them and how they react to Medicare data given to them proving the label. There are 8 pages to this article, but it is a very interesting.

View the entire article at:

www.newyorker.com:80/reporting/2009/06/01/090601fa_fact_gawande?yrail