

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.**

NPI REGISTRY ONLINE

Find All Dr. NPI Numbers

There is now an on-line registry of all physicians National Provider Identifiers (NPI).

This has been quite awhile in the making and the few we have looked up are accurate.

It gives you more than just the physician name and NPI; you also get practice location address and phone, taxonomy code, UPIN and Medicare/Medicaid provider numbers.

You can also retrieve corporate or location NPI's on this site too.

Go to:

http://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/nppes/npi_registryhome.do

PROBLEM SOLVED

Sorry For The Inconvenience

This week Plexus had problems with the fax; it was an AT&T line problem that has been fixed.

SEPT IS NATIONAL CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH

Preventive Screening Is Covered

CMS will pay for cardiovascular screening blood tests for the early detection of cardiovascular disease or abnormalities associated with an elevated risk of heart disease and stroke.

Asymptomatic beneficiaries can have covered testing done every 5 years. This includes total cholesterol tests, cholesterol test for high-density lipoproteins and triglycerides testing.

There is no copay to Medicare patients for these tests.

PUBLIC LISTING OF PAYMENTS TO DOCTORS

New Legislation in the Works

New legislation introduced Thursday (Sept. 6, 2007) will require makers of drugs and

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

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medical devices to publicly report all payments and gifts made to doctors.

Currently, this is not a requirement. But Senator Herb Kohl (WI-D) said that the drug and medical devices makers had long defended their payments and gifts to doctors as appropriate. "If that is the case, full disclosure will only serve to prove them right."

The FDA already regulates pharmaceutical marketing. The FDA does not regulate gifts or consulting arrangements made to doctors.

This legislation results from the growing concern that free meals and consulting payments, which can exceed \$100,000 annually, lead doctors to prescribe more expensive drugs and devices, which ultimately increases the cost of healthcare.

This bill is more comprehensive than that of any other State (only 4) and includes device companies, not just drug makers and has a more inclusive list of gifts and benefits to be reported. It also includes the financing of continuing medical education that some companies underwrite for physicians.

Companies with at least \$100 million in annual revenues would have to make quarterly disclosures of any gift or payment exceeding \$25. These disclosures would be posted on a website.

This bill does not have a disclosure notice for free drug samples or the financing of clinical trials.

Based on an article written by Gardiner Harris

2007 BLUECARD PROGRAM

Satisfaction Surveys

All of you have experienced the issue of BCBS paying the patient for your services. There is no rhyme or reason why they do it. If you ever have to call them on eligibility or claim issues you are re-routed, transferred and sent to heaven only knows where for an answer. And with every new voice on the phone you have to repeat the Federal ID #, the patient policy number, the DOS, the billed amount, etc.

I have long awaited an opportunity to tell BCBS exactly what I think of their customer service. WELL IT'S HERE!

This will be done in two "waves" with the second one occurring during September. If you get a call from BCBS about this survey please forward them to Plexus. We would love to chat with them.

SEVERAL MC PLANS

8 in Wisconsin

So far we are counting 8 Medicare plans in Wisconsin. If you run across one of these plans be sure to list it as the primary plan instead of traditional Medicare that is billed to Madison, WI.

You will see traditional Medicare, Medicare Railroad, Aetna Medicare Open Plan, Advantra Freedom, Blue Cross Smart Value, Humana Gold, Secure Horizons and First Health Life & Health Plan.

Be sure to keep a copy of the insurance card in your files.