

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.**

LATEST CCI UPDATE *Version 12.2 Released On 7/1/06*

According to Frank Cohen of the NAHC the newest edition of the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) has been released.

There are 812 new edit pairs, 221 terminated pairs and 42 pairs with modifier indicator changes.

This may not mean much to you right now, but it will. Simply put, this means that CMS has taken ICD-9 codes and bundled them into similar categories. Plexus tries to keep up with these changes and keep your claims from being denied for "bundled codes", and we've been very successful in this effort.

There are also 973 duplicate codes, this means they were active at one point, then terminated and then made active again.

With these latest changes there are a total of 427,919 edit pairs in the CCI database.

www.cpahealth.com

Click on the Download button.

THE BLUES UPDATE *Anthem® Is Their New Name*

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of WI is now Anthem® Blue Cross/Blue Shield. In the near future you will begin to see new insurance ID cards with this logo on it. Including Wisconsin, Anthem® now has exclusive Blue Cross rights in 11 states.

They will be dropping the CompCare® line of product and replacing it with a BCBS product. You should contact BCBS provider relations to make sure you are in plan with all of the new products.

This change in ownership will have a new website so that patient eligibility and claim status can be obtained on line and they'll have a new, easier to read EOB. Do not use this new website until after 9-1-06. There will also be a new claims mailing address. Precertification requirements have changed too.

They also will now provide the opportunity for you to have direct deposit of your remittances. Plexus has this form, give us a call if you are interested in this feature.

www.anthem.com

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UNITED HEALTH CARE *The Midwest Security Affiliate*

In October 2002 Midwest Security became a wholly owned subsidiary of UHC. As of 6-1-06 UHC is opening up their network of facilities and physicians to Midwest Security enrollees. This allows Midwest Security members a larger option of hospitals and doctors.

New insurance ID cards will be issued that will have both the Midwest Security and UHC logos on them.

If you are a current UHC contracted provider, this could be a potential volume booster for you with the network being expanded this way. This also means a reduced copay for the Midwest Security enrollees when they use an UHC provider.

All policies for UHC will be applicable to the Midwest Security patients.

www.unitedhealthcareonline.com

ABN'S & MULTIPLE SERVICES *Advance Beneficiary Notices (ABN) for Medicare*

An ABN is not required for each date of service. To cover an extended treatment period it is acceptable to use one ABN as long as all of the DOS and procedures are listed that do not qualify for Medicare payment. During the course of treatment, if it is determined that other services need to be performed and Medicare will not cover them, then a new ABN needs to be generated.

Be sure to use the correct ABN on the site listed below, labs and podiatrists have their own unique forms of them.

www.wpsmedicare.com/provider/abn.shtml

E-CHECKS *Dramatically Improve Cash Flow*

You already accept credit cards so now take your income potential to the next level. Plexus now offers the use of E-checks. The fees to process checks is less than that to process credit cards. It will cost you 25¢ per check plus 2.5% of the check amount.

The patient will call or go to our website and put in their check information and then it works as if you physically went to the bank. Plexus will reconcile these funds in the same way your credit cards are now being handled.

It obviously saves time and money for both you and the patient. Patients can call us, call you or go to our website to take advantage of this feature.

This is the wave of the future. As some of you have realized the insurance carriers are already doing this.

Let Plexus know if you are NOT interested in this service, otherwise we will begin accepting this method of payment from your patients.

PHS AVAILABLE WEB SERVICES *Plexus Offers Many On-Line Services For Patients*

Don't forget to refer your patients to our website for any changes to their name, address, insurance, to pay a bill with a credit card or E-check, to set up a revolving charge, request a change to their PHI, take a patient satisfaction survey and read our HIPAA privacy guidelines.

This venue also offers them the opportunity to communicate with us via e-mail.

Last month we included in the monthly patient statements a notice of all the services on our site.

It's fast, it's easy, it's convenient!