

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.**

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

RED FLAG RULES *Delay in Enforcement*

PROPOSED CHANGE IN DPM MEDICAID STATUS *Introduction of Legislation was March 19*

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced that they would delay the enforcement date of the Red Flag Rules to August 1, 2009.

The original enforcement date of 11-1-08 was delayed to 5-1-09 and now it is 8-1-09.

The AMA is going to use this extra time to try and convince the FTC and Congress that physicians are not creditors and should be exempt from this Rule.

The Wisconsin Medical Society joined the AMA and sent letters in support of this exemption.

Keep in mind that Plexus provides on-site training of the Red Flag Rule that includes a Power Point presentation, workbooks and a corporate training manual for your practice. The seminar is about one hour long. In this seminar we also include training on the Address Discrepancy Rule as an added bonus for your staff.

The U.S. House and Senate simultaneously introduced legislation to authorize doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM) as physicians to provide physician services to Medicaid patients.

This proposed law (HR 1625/S654) would remove DMP's from Medicaid's "optional service provider" listing and define them as physicians in Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

Additional information and support letters can be found on:
www.apma.org/eadvocacy

TRAINING SEMINARS *Expanding Our Classes*

Plexus now has required training classes. Our expertise now includes:

- HIPAA Privacy Act
- HIPAA Security Act
- Red Flag Rules
- Address Discrepancy Rules
- Crisis Management Planning

Call Jean to sign up for any of them TODAY!

You can contact us at:

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REMINDER CALLS TO PTS

Time Consuming, but Necessary

Do you realize how much time you spend calling patients to remind them of their appointments? Quite a lot we expect. Then, when they don't show, even after your call, do you charge them for no shows? Some of our clients do. We're not saying this is a large revenue stream, but you need to establish a policy that your patients have one "grace" no show, but after that they will be charged for missed appointments.

The no show fees are not billable to any insurance carrier and the patient will learn that there are consequences for their inconsiderate behavior. Your policy should consider extraordinary circumstances and the ability to waive the charge for this item.

Plexus can help you save time and money by offering an "add on" service that will scan your schedule and make phone calls to patients. These are highly customizable templates and can also remind patients of any outstanding balance, copays and deductibles. It can include directives such as; fast before your appointment for any anticipated blood work, etc.

Give Plexus a call if you are interested in this dynamic technology.

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

Children

Did you know that any child (under the age of 18) is automatically eligible for Medicaid coverage? They are.

In these trying economic times you may run into families who have lost their health insurance coverage and you should encourage them to apply for this coverage. In Kenosha they would go to the Kenosha County Service Center on south Sheridan Road.

KATIE BECKETT PROGRAM

Child Coverage

The Katie Beckett Program is a State run funding system for children (ages under 18) who have exhausted their lifetime maximum with their health insurance carrier.

They are exempt from copays. To apply for this coverage the patient should be encouraged to seek help at the Kenosha County Service Center on south Sheridan Road in Kenosha.

THE HITECH ACT

Breakdown of ARRA Stimulus

To help cover the costs of implementing EMR and e-Prescribing in the medical office the HITECH Act will be reimbursing medical practices at the following rates:

Yr	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Acquired							
2011	\$18000	\$12000	\$8000	\$4000	\$2000	\$0	\$44000
2012	\$0	\$18000	\$12000	\$8000	\$4000	\$2000	\$44000
2013	\$0	\$0	\$15000	\$12000	\$8000	\$4000	\$39000
2014	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15000	\$12000	\$8000	\$35000
2015 or later	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

This money is per doctor and non-medical billing professionals (NP's and PA's) will be paid at a lesser amount so long as they all are Medicare providers.

The EMR product must also be CCHIT certified.

The HITECH stimulus package also reimburses practices for the use of electronic prescriptions. The reimbursement for this is as follows:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Beyond
Incentive	2%	2%	1%	1%	0.5%	0%
Penalty	0%	0%	0%	1%	1.5%	2%

This stimulus is paid to you immediately for all Rx's given electronically.

Plexus will have an e-prescribing product for the use of all of its' clients in the very near future so you can take advantage of this incentive payment.