

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.**

WE'RE GROWING

Updated Phone System

Plexus is experiencing some growth that has made it necessary to update our phone system and add lines.

We have doubled the number of incoming lines dedicated to telecommunications and faxes.

We will be eliminating the greeting at the beginning of the phone call and having a live person answer all the time. Of course, the exceptions will be when we are closed or on the phone with someone else.

Then the call will be put into a secure voicemail system for immediate retrieval.

EXPANDED HOURS

Open Earlier

Our new hours of operation are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Our website has this information on both the physician and patient portals and a listing of our holiday closures.

EMR INCENTIVES

Begins May 2011

CMS will begin to make payments on EMR programs that meet their meaningful use incentive guidelines in May 2011.

The fact that they keep changing the meaningful use definition is making it very hard to choose a program that will qualify.

Software that is CCHIT certified is no longer a dependable indicator of being able to obtain reimbursement.

Plexus staff is continuing to take demonstrations on software and will let you know when we find one that is light on the "bells & whistles", is easy to use and cost effective.

If you find a system that you like, please share the information with us so we can take a look and have the option of referring it to other clients.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

Be Safe

Plexus will be closed on Monday, September 6 in honor of Labor Day.

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

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FREE SAMPLES

This Isn't Good

Soon you will have to inventory and document free samples you give to patients from pharmaceutical companies. These companies will have to send you a 1099 at the end of the year for your corporate taxes and you will have to pay taxes on the cost of these free samples.

We suggest that you talk with your drug reps the next time they visit and get more details on this issue. Please pass along any other information you may obtain.

ACO's ON THE RISE

Taken From the LA Times

Because of the Obama legislation on the healthcare bill signed in March 2010, many independent providers across the country are racing to mold themselves into the kind of coordinated teams held up as models for improving care. These models are being called Accountable Care Organizations (ACO's). In some places, the scramble is so intense that physicians and hospitals are putting aside rivalries and signing new partnership agreements.

In San Antonio three hospital systems are competing to form alliances with local doctors.

Healthcare experts have argued that such a unified approach to medical care offers the best hope for improving quality and saving money. Even though such institutions as the Mayo Clinic (MN) and Kaiser Permanente (CA) have thrived on this model of healthcare, the competing interest of providers were widely seen as a barrier to nationwide change.

Some see this as a way to restrict patient choice and access, but others are hopeful that this may provide a spark that will cause change and the change will reap benefits for all involved. See the whole article at:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/health/healthcare/la-na-health-doctors-20100728.0.2722731.story>

PECOS

New Deadline

The new deadline for PECOS sign up is now November 1, 2010.

Call us if you are unsure of your status.

FINAL HEALTHCARE BILL

Changes Effect Many

According to The Wisconsin Chiropractor (WCA) publication (August 2010) the final bill signed by Obama had a language change that may exclude chiropractic care from being a covered benefit under the bill.

The WCA has met with other like organizations around the country and they have set up a website for their grass roots effort, the Chiropractic Essential Benefit Campaign, to include chiropractic services in the law.

If you would like to support this effort go to the site and see how you can help.

<http://www.chirobenefit.org/>

ANSI v5010

We Are Gearing Up!

On January 1, 2012 the new billing version of the electronic claim will be required. This change will affect nearly all aspects of your practice. These changes are complex and will be difficult to meet by many.

Our software vendor is ahead of the game and is testing as we write. They have guaranteed us that they will be up and transmitting in this format by 1-1-11.

The Wisconsin Medicare carrier, WPS, will be prepared to accept these new claim forms by this time also.