



Medical Reimbursement and A/R Management Update

Our Best Practice Advice and Management Tips for Superior Collection Performance

****Healthcare News****

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) introduced legislation in April that would delay the pending July 1, 2008 10.1% cut for 18 months. The measure could increase payments by 1.1%.

[Click here to view the story](#)

NPI Rejection Conditions

Until the end of the contingency period on May 23, 2008, CMS is sending payers pre-pass edits for possible NPI rejection conditions. After that date, claims will reject for any NPI conditions.

[Click here to view the CMS notice](#)

Revised Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) Form

CMS revised its ABN form and consolidated its use for all providers and suppliers. There is a 6-month implementation grace period until September 1, 2008.

[Click here to access the CMS ABN webpage](#)

2008 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

CMS has modified the PQRI program for the January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008 reporting period. The 2008 incentive payment is set at 1.5% of total 2008 allowed

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This Month's A/R Management Tip

Improved Collection Performance for Off-Site Services

Collection performance results for off-site services are typically lower than those of office-based services. This tends to be true even in practices that have achieved "Best Practices" processes. Reasons for the variance in performance range from reliance on patient data or scheduling services provided by a hospital or other entity, physical distances between locations, and even provider notation preferences. While many of these issues are not easily controlled by the practice, there are steps that can be taken to improve the off-site services billing process.

In general, the following "Best Practices" employed in an office setting should be utilized in all off-site settings as well. Implementing these processes should also result in an immediate collection windfall:

- Utilize a scheduling template within the practice management system for each location, department or treatment area
- Perform advance Insurance Verification (IV), including determination of the patient balance responsibility
- Require patients pay their portion due prior to the date of service
- Provide the service provider with a copy of their off-site schedule and pre-printed SuperBills
- Require all documentation and SuperBills to be completed within 24 hours of treatment
- Require delivery of the completed service documentation on the next business day
- Require coding, entry, reconciliation and billing for those services as per your office-based policy (which should be no later than 24 hours from the date of receipt)

charges. It's still not too late to participate.

[Click here to access the CMS PQRI webpage](#)

Planning Web Page

Issues related to Provider Enrollment in Florida have led CMS and First Coast Options to establish a Web page for enrollment and update/change education.

[Click here to access the Provider Enrollment Web page.](#)

About Us

Gregory, Sharer & Stuart is one of Tampa Bay's leading accounting and business consulting firms. Founded in 1984, the firm offers the expertise and resources of a national firm with the personal attention and responsiveness usually found only at smaller firms. With GSS, you get the *right answers, right now.*

- Review and monitor all electronic and paper billing edits separately from the office-based services
- Review and monitor all denial, payment, collection and staff audit reports separately from the office-based services to identify process issues and abnormalities

[Contact the GSS Healthcare Services Team for assistance obtaining "Best Practices" results and optimal A/R performance](#)

Marketing Tip

Several health awareness dates occur in June. Use your practice management software to query for patients with similar diagnoses or other identifying information to send clinic event dates, screening notices, reminder letters, discussion group dates, or any other marketing activities you can use to increase your patient visit volumes.

- ✓ Awareness Day - *Stand for Children, Career Nursing Assistants, HIV Testing*
- ✓ Awareness Week - *Nursing Assistants, Aphasia, Headache, Children's Miracle Network, Men's Health, Blindness Prevention*
- ✓ Awareness Month - *Safety, Vision Research, Fireworks Safety, Hernia, Scleroderma*

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