



Radiology Trends

Medical Billing and Management Services

Not just billing....a business partner

Did You Know?

According to the MGMA's Physician Placement Starting Salary Survey: 2011 report based on 2010 data, a first year specialist in a multi-specialty practice earned approximately \$18,000 more than their peers in a single-specialty practice.

U.S. commercial airlines depend on fellow passengers, who also happen to be doctors, when treating medical emergencies in the air. According to MedAire, a company that advises 60 airlines, there were about 19,000 in-flight medical cases in 2010, 442 were serious enough to divert the flight and 94 people died.

Imaging Takes Hit on Top 5 Ways to Lower Cost and Improve Care

Physicians in family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics were asked to come up with a list of 5 ways to save money while improving patient care. The recommendations were field-tested by 255 other doctors, condensed to a top 5 list and published in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

The Family Medicine top 5 ways to reduce costs while improving patient care were:

- 1— Don't do imaging for low back pain within the first six weeks.
- 2— Don't routinely prescribe antibiotics for mild or moderate sinusitis.

3— Don't order annual ECGs or other cardiac screenings for healthy, low-risk patients

4— Don't perform Pap tests on patients under 21 or in women who have had hysterectomies for benign disease.

5— Don't do DEXA bone scans to screen for osteoporosis in women under 65 or men under 70.

The Internal medicine group agreed with Family Medicine on #1, #3, and #5 but added:

1— Don't do blood chemistry panels or urinalysis for screening in healthy adults.

2— Use generic statins when initiating cholesterol-lowering therapy.

The Pediatric recommendations are as follow:

1— Don't prescribe antibiotics for sore throat unless the patient tests positive for strep.

2— Don't order diagnostic imaging for minor head injuries.

3— Don't refer cases of OME early on.

4— Advise patients not to use OTC cough and cold medications.

5— Use corticosteroid asthma inhalers properly.

Preparing for Version 5010

The compliance date for claims version 5010 is January 1, 2012, less than six months away. You will be comforted to know that both MBMS and our clearinghouse are already submitting

claims in the new format.

The claims submissions will be the first to be phased into the new format by client, followed by the remits. Testing is complete for

our main clearinghouse and will continue until all payers are compliant with the new 5010 format. We are able to support both the 4010A1 and 5010 versions concurrently.

In The News

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Coding and Compliance Tips by Lori Shore

A report issued by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) from the Department of Health and Human Services named both the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and the Office for Civil Rights for their lack of adequately protecting electronic patient health information. The ONC and Office for Civil Rights are responsible for the oversight of the HIPAA security rule. The report also named CMS which was previously responsible for electronic security.

The Office for Civil Rights took over the responsibility for security in July, 2009 from CMS. Neither organization, with the authority to do security audits, has initiated a single audit. CMS claims it investigated 428 security complaints but never issued any monetary penalties since the HIPAA security rule became effective in April, 2005.

The OIG did it's own security audits on hospitals in 7 states between August 2009 and March 2010. They found "151 vulnerabilities in the systems and controls", "124

were categorized as high-impact." "These vulnerabilities placed the confidentiality, integrity and availability of ePHI at risk." according to the auditors.

The OIG also berated the ONC for failing to include security standards in the Meaningful Use criteria.

What does this mean for you? I would expect increased electronic security scrutiny. Make sure your digital house is in order and secure. You don't want to be the first monetary penalty under the HIPAA security rule.

Proposal to Cover Malpractice Cost of Volunteers

Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) reintroduced a bill in Congress that would authorize the federal government to pay any successful malpractice claims for physicians volunteering their time. Physicians currently have to purchase their own malpractice insurance to cover volunteer work. This dissuades many from volunteering because the coverage is too costly. This bill would afford doctors volunteering their time the same civil protections as public health employees.

IBM Supercomputer, *Watson*, Turns to Medicine

After handily defeating "Jeopardy!" champs on the popular television game-show, IBM is readying *Watson* to be used as a bedside medical tool. The supercomputer is being "fed" medical textbooks, journals, treatment guidelines and patients' blogs to help to quickly and accurately diagnose diseases.

We have successfully submitted claim files in the new 5010 format!

