



Radiology Trends

Medical Billing and Management Services

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Did You Know?

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) officially recommended pre-authorization of some imaging studies.

The Senate has dropped its proposal to raise the utilization rate from 75% to 90% for advanced diagnostic imaging equipment valued at \$1 million or more.

Implementation of Phase II of Meaningful Use has been postponed until 2014.

More Incentive Payments in PA

Independence Blue Cross, the largest insurer in the Philadelphia region, announced that it will be replacing its pay-for performance hospital contracts that focused on quality care with the Integrated Provider Performance Incentive that focuses on both quality and cost savings. The new program will be implemented in early 2012.

IBC will measure performance in the reduction of re-admissions,

reductions in hospital acquired infections and the use of evidence-based treatment. IBC plans to include hospital specialists who are often left out of other incentive equations that focus on primary care physicians.

The Jefferson Health System and the Holy Redeemer Health System have already signed on for the new program. Doug Chaet, Senior Vice President of Contracting and Provider Networks, anticipates full participa-

tion from local hospital systems.

Pennsylvania Medical Assistance (Medicaid) is one of 17 states that are issuing incentive payments under their Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentive program. "Switching from using paper medical records to electronic records is a proven way to boost the health and safety of Medical Assistance patients." according to acting Public Welfare Secretary, Gary Alexander.

RBMA Weighs In on Meaningful Use

The Radiology Business Management Association (RBMA) recently released its position paper on Meaningful Use. The recommendations include removal of the requirement to comply

with un-related objectives for Eligible Professionals (EP) compliance; require hospitals to certify for general, inpatient and ambulatory criteria in order that EP could use the hospital's certified technology in order

to qualify; and include radiology-specific objectives to qualify. Unless the Meaningful Use program is revamped, the RBMA does not feel that radiologists and other specialists should be subject to payment penalties slated for 2015.

In The News

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Coding and Compliance Tips by Lori Shore

Category III codes, commonly referred to as temporary codes or T codes, are released semi-annually. These codes represent new and emerging technologies and based on their use may, or may not, be assigned a CPT code at some point in the future. For this reason, if a category III code exists it must be used rather than an unlisted procedure code. Category III codes have an early release policy meaning that the codes are released six months in advance of their implementation date.

Codes that were implemented July 1, 2011 that may pertain to radiology are as follows:

0262T—Implantation of catheter-delivered prosthetic pulmonary valve, endovascular approach.

0274T—Percutaneous laminotomy/laminectomy (intralaminar approach) for decompression of neural elements, any method under indirect image guidance, with or without the use of an endoscope, single or multiple levels, unilateral or bilateral; cervical or thoracic.

0275T—Lumbar

These codes will be published in the 2012 edition of CPT.

To see a complete list of newly released Category III codes please go to www.ama-assn.org/go/cpt.

FDA Gives Preliminary Okay for PET/MRI

Siemens Healthcare was given initial regulatory clearance by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration for a hybrid PET/MRI scanner. Tested in Germany and Massachusetts General Hospital, the new hybrid boasts a “significantly lower radiation dose” than that of PET/CT.

Bracco Recalls Cardio-Gen82

Following an FDA announcement that two patients received increased radiation due to the strontium isotopes, manufacturer Bracco has issued a recall of the rubidium-82 chloride injections.

Temple Announces New Medical School in Western PA

In an effort to recruit, train and retain Pennsylvania residents to be physicians, Temple University announced the Temple University School of Medicine at West Penn Allegheny Health System. The school will be located on the north side of Pittsburgh and will accept 30 students into its first class in 2013.

Have a Happy
and Safe
Summer

