



Radiology Trends

Medical Billing and Management Services

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Did You Know?

The healthcare sector of the U.S. economy posted gains of 0.2% in July according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Hospitals alone added 14,000 jobs for an annual increase of 1.6%. Physician offices added 6,300 workers for a 0.3% gain.

According to Robert Still, president-elect of the Radiology Business Management Association, in 2010 there were 46.6 million Medicare beneficiaries; in 2030 there will be 77.2 million.

Disciplinary Action of Doctors Increases 400% in DE

Delaware was ranked 50th in doctor discipline for three years ending in 2005. Following the conviction of pediatrician Earl B. Bradley on the rape and sexual abuse of over 85 children in June of this year, the previous laxity has been replaced with strengthened medical disciplinary laws.

In 2010, following the January allegations against Bradley, serious disciplinary actions in Delaware increased by

400%. Serious actions are defined as revocation or suspension of a medical license, probation or restrictions. This increase moved Delaware from 35th in the nation to 13th in a survey by the Public Citizen's Health Research Group, a non-profit based in Washington that ranks states over three year periods.

Delaware has made changes to their medical disciplinary laws including tougher penalties for failure to report sus-

pected misconduct by a doctor; making disciplinary hearings open to the public and making it easier to get an emergency license suspension. Doctors must also report all investigations, not just those punished, when renewing a license in Delaware.

Educating doctors about their legal obligation to report misconduct and increased penalties for not doing so has led to a 73% increase in complaints to the Division of Professional Regulation.

CMS Proposes Reduction in Professional Component for Multiple Procedures

On July 19, 2011 CMS published its proposed Physician Fee Schedule for 2012. Included in the proposal is a 50% reduction for the professional component of

119 imaging studies. The higher cost MRI, CT or Ultrasound study will be paid at full fee while additional studies will be paid at 50%. These do not need to be contiguous body parts to be sub-

ject to the reduction. If a patient has an MRI of the extremity and CT of the head one study will be paid at 100% with a 50% reduction for the lower cost study.

In The News

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Coding and Compliance Tips by Lori Shore

The increased specificity anticipated with ICD-10 is evident in the 2012 changes to ICD-9. There are many additions to the ICD-9 code set, that are effective October 1, 2011, as well as revisions to add specificity to existing codes.

Basal and squamous cell carcinomas will now have assigned codes to differentiate them from other forms of skin cancer. Codes will also be added for glaucoma based on

stage; pneumothorax and pneumonia will require greater specificity; several codes will describe complications of bariatric procedures; post-operative shock will need to be qualified as cardiogenic, septic or other; and anaphylaxis and other reactions will require knowledge of what caused the reaction.

Revised codes focus heavily on migraines as well as anaphylactic reactions.

There should be limited changes to ICD-9 following this edition in order to allow practices to prepare for ICD-10 scheduled to be implemented October 1, 2013. The 3-7 alpha numeric ICD-10 codes follow basically the same coding guidelines with a few exceptions. One exception is coding for traumas. Traumas will require us to report what happened as well as where, the cause, and in what capacity.

Two Indicted for Stealing Medical Licensing Test Questions

Doctors and medical students that used the New Jersey test-prep company Optima University may have their medical licenses challenged. Egija Kuka and Eihab Suliman were indicted for fraud in July for stealing questions from the U.S. Medical Licensing exam in Italy for use at the school.

Michigan Opens First of Three Medical Schools

The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine enrolled it's first class of fifty students in Rochester, Michigan. This is the first of three new medical schools scheduled to open in Michigan, the first is 47 years. Central Michigan University is scheduled to open in 2013 and Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo is scheduled to open their medical school in 2014.

Look for us in the
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