



Radiology Trends

Medical Billing and Management Services

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Did You Know?

On October 4th over 500 law-enforcement officials in 7 cities charged 91 people with Medicare fraud. The false billings reportedly totaled \$429 million.

Nationally, Medicaid spending only grew 2% in fiscal 2012 as opposed to 9.7% in fiscal 2011. It is the lowest growth rate in Medicaid spending since 2006. Enrollment in Medicaid programs was also reduced to 3.2% in fiscal 2012. This is also down from 4.4% in fiscal 2011. These figures were reported by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

PRM Could Improve Treatment of COPD

Researchers at the Michigan Medical School have published a paper on Parametric Response Mapping (PRM) in patients with COPD. As part of a national COPD Gene study, the researchers used PRM to analyze CT scans of the lungs. The technique allowed them to distinguish between early damage to small airways and emphysema. The results correlated to standard lung tests.

“In the last decade, CT scan techniques for imaging COPD have improved steadily, but PRM is the missing link—giving us a robust way to see small airway disease and personalize treatment,” says Dr. Ella Kazerooni, radiology professor and leader of the University of Michigan Lung Imaging Program.

PRM was originally developed to track the

treatment response in brain tumors. Imbio, has already licensed the University of Michigan patents to develop PRM as an early detection tool for treatment response in brain tumors and has now begun developing the technology for COPD diagnosis and treatment.

COPD is the third-highest cause of death in the U.S., affecting nearly 24 million.

Healthier Food in Hospitals

The Partnership for a Healthier America, a non-profit formed by several foundations and health systems, announced that more than 150 hospitals will be offering more nutritious choices to both patients and in their cafe-

terias. In 2005, Health Care Without Harm received pledges from 400 hospitals to “treat food and its production and distribution as preventive medicine.”

89% of pediatric hospitals in the U.S. have an on-site fast-food chain as of 2006. 22 hospital administrators have been persuaded to remove McDonald’s from their campuses this year.

ICD-10 Corner

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Coding and Compliance Tips by Lori Shore, CPC, RCC

The bundling trend for radiology continues into 2013. This year it is the cervicocerebral angiography codes. There will be eight new all-inclusive codes for selective and non-selective catheter placements in the cervicocerebral area that include "all associated radiological supervision and interpretation" as well as an arch study when performed. Also bundled will be transcatheter retrieval procedures which bundles ultrasound or fluoro guidance as well as the RS&I.

Codes for transcatheter

therapy for thrombolysis have been expanded to specify arterial or venous for the initial treatment day. Coding for subsequent days now bundles all catheter injections, positioning, exchanges or removals.

There will be four new thoracentesis codes to differentiate aspiration of the pleural space, with or without imaging guidance, from drainage via an indwelling catheter, with or without imaging guidance. The definition of the tube thoracostomy code 32551 will also be revised.

Just for fun! The following are actual external cause codes from ICD-10.

V94.4xxA = Injury to *barefoot* water-skier

If a patient says he/she was injured water-skiing are you going to ask if he/she was wearing skis???

W45.1xxA = Paper entering through skin

Who goes to the hospital for a paper cut???

Y92.025 = Garage of mobile home as the place of occurrence

How many mobile homes do you know that have garages???

W50 = *Accidental* hit, strike, kick twist, bite or scratch by another person

The only time I ever did those things "accidentally" was when I relayed the story to my parents!

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