



WISCONSIN PHYSICIANS SERVICE (WPS) MEDICARE PART A POE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING – CENTRAL REGION

March 27, 2008

10:00 – 11:30 p.m. CT

Present:

Gary Toliver, Missouri Hospital Association
Kevin Conway, Nebraska Hospital Association
Lorelei Schieferdecker, Primaris (QIO)
Rita Ketterlin, Primaris (QIO)
Becky Risk, North Kansas City Hospital (H, R, S)
Tina Davis, University of Missouri Health Care (H, R, P, D)
Lisa Wright, University of Missouri Health Care (H, R, P, D)
Judy Gelsheimer, Cox Health (H, R, P, S, D, RHC)
JP Greco, eSolutions
Joanne Hollett, SSM Health Care (H, R, P, S, RHC)
Donna Coates, St. Mary's Health Center (H, P, RHC)
Marissa Smith, Southeast Hospital (H, R, P)
Jackie Burcxyk, St. Luke's–Kansas City (H, R)
Amy Miller, IntegriGuard, LLC

Facilitator:

Bob Haisch, Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS)

The Provider Outreach and Education (POE) Advisory Group Meeting was held via conference call. The provider members on the call represented hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, dialysis, and rural health clinics.

- **Medicare Contractor Beneficiary and Provider Communications Manual (Pub. 100-09),**

- **Provider Customer Service Program (Chapter 6), Section 20.4**

The primary function of POE Advisory Groups is to assist the FI or A/B MAC in the creation, implementation, and review of provider education strategies and efforts. The function of these groups can also be found on the WPS Medicare Website at <http://www.wpsmedicare.com> under Education, POE AG. Please contact Bob Haisch with any suggestions about future topics for seminars, teleconferences, or computer-based training. Bob can be reached at 816-891-6500, ext. 227 or bob.haisch@wpsic.com

The following topics were suggested for possible teleconferences or computer based training:

- Occurrence Span Code 74
- Billing Multiple Surgeries
- ESRD Billing – ESRD Facilities
- ESRD Billing – Non-ESRD Facilities
- Clinical Trials Billing



- **Seminars / "Ask-the-Contractor" Teleconferences (ACTs)**
Refer to the WPS Medicare Website, under Education, for a listing of seminars, ACTs, etc.
- **Computer-Based Training (CBT)**
The WPS Website, under Education, lists several CBTs that are available.
- **Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Hearing Dismissal**
Lorelei Schieferdecker, Program Manager, Clinical Review, Primaris (QIO), discussed a situation where a Medicare beneficiary requested an appeal for non-covered services. The ALJ denied the appeal since these services had not been billed to Medicare as non-covered. Please contact Lorelei at 573-817-8300, ext.155 or lschieferdecker@primaris.org if you have any questions.
- **Jurisdiction 5 (J5) A/B Medicare Administrative Contract (MAC)**
Nebraska Part A providers transitioned to WPS on December 1, 2007. Kansas Part A providers and Kansas, Nebraska and northwest Missouri Part B providers transitioned March 1, 2008. Transition information is available on the Website under J5 MAC. A Missouri Part A Implementation ACT is scheduled for April 17th.
- **WPS Website**
Legacy providers, providers formerly served by Mutual of Omaha Medicare, should refer to Part A information on the home page of the WPS Website. Part A providers transitioning to WPS should refer to the J5 MAC area of the Website. WPS welcomes comments about the Website, both what you like and changes you would like to see.
- **Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) and Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) Update**
Change Request (CR) 5942, March 7, 2008. This CR lists RARCs and CARCs that are either new, modified, or deactivated effective April 1, 2008.
- **2008 Therapy Caps**
The therapy caps limit has increased from \$1780 in 2007 to \$1810 in 2008. There is a combined limit of \$1810 for physical therapy and speech-language pathology, and a separate \$1810 limit for occupational therapy. These caps do not apply to hospital outpatient therapy services. The Extension Act of 2007 extended the limit / caps automatic exception process through June 30, 2008. There is no longer is a manual exception process. Hospitals and SNFs need to be aware that as long as a Medicare beneficiary remains in a SNF certified bed they cannot go to a hospital outpatient department to receive therapy services.
- **Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing**
SNF Consolidated Billing information is available via the CMS Manual System. Information is also available on the CMS Website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/snfconsolidatedbilling/> Part A providers should refer to the 2008 FI A/B MAC which includes the 2008 Annual Updates and two downloads: 2008 FI A/B MAC File [Zip, 18KB] and General Explanation of the Major Categories



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[PDF, 53KB]. These downloads provide information about the major categories and lists HCPCS codes which are included, and in some cases excluded, in SNF Consolidated Billing.

- **Future POE Advisory Group Meetings**

Central Region POE Advisory Group meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

June 12 Jefferson City, Missouri.

Sept 11 Jefferson City, Missouri

These dates are listed on the WPS Medicare Website.