

June 7, 2006

**Southeast Region PCOM Advisory Conference Call
Clearwater Office**

Attendees

Janice Tait Chairperson – Mutual of Omaha Medicare – Clearwater Office
Kathleen Maris - Mutual of Omaha Medicare – Dallas Office
Marijean Schindler – Mutual of Omaha Medicare – Atlanta Office
Janelle Herman – Mutual of Omaha Medicare – Omaha Office
Kathy Reep – Florida Hospital Association
Aaron Burky – Tenet Health Care (H, R, S, D)
Tabatha Mcallister – Tenet Health Care (H, R, S, D)
Marjean Preda – Tenet Health Care (H, R, S, D)
Laurie Holtsford – CHS (H, R, S, D, P)

Janice called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. by welcoming and introducing the participants.

Function of the PCOM Advisory Group

Janice discussed the function of the PCOM Advisory Group and asked the participants how we should handle the issue of PCOM members who do not consistently participate in our teleconferences.

Prior to the teleconference, Janice sends an e-mail to all PCOM members advising them of the date and time of the teleconference, asks who will be attending the teleconference (members only) in person or via telephone and requests agenda items. Some members are simply non-responsive and do not participate in the teleconference for several consecutive quarters. Janice asked the group for the number of consecutive meetings a member could miss before they are considered not to be a part of the PCOM Advisory Group any longer. Of course, there are always going to be scheduling conflicts and members who cannot attend can always delegate a surrogate. That is never an issue.

The consensus was that if a member misses 2 consecutive meetings without responding to the initial e-mail or sending a surrogate, then that member should be removed from the Group. That member would be notified via e-mail that he/she is no longer a member and his/her name shall be removed from the Southeast PCOM Advisory Group Roster.

Registering for Workshops

The method of registering for workshops has changed. We no longer send out hard copy workshop invitations to our providers. All workshops and other educational endeavors are posted to our website www.mutualmedicare.com under “Provider Education”. A nominal fee is now charged for all workshops. Registering for workshops electronically is a rather new initiative and we expect mistakes to happen. Janice provided detailed instructions on registering and paying for workshops. Janelle mentioned that some providers include the payment for the workshops with other payments, such as for electronic claim submissions, and it is often difficult to identify the workshop payment. Janelle asked that a separate check be sent for workshop payment. Some providers will submit their Payment Form with their check and not register electronically for the workshop. Any provider who has not registered and has not paid the workshop fee cannot be admitted on the day of the workshop. Payment cannot be accepted at the door on the day of the workshop. We do not want to ever turn providers away from our workshops, so please call the sponsoring Field Office if there are any questions on the procedures for registering and paying for workshops.

Open House Forums

Janice had previously sent an e-mail to the members regarding monthly free-of-charge "Open House Forums" that would be held at the respective Field Offices. She solicited input from the Group regarding the feasibility of this additional educational effort. The members agreed this is a great idea. The suggestions were:

- Do not mix provider types
- Education should be geared to a specific provider type and be rotated on a monthly basis
- As an example, SNF Basic training could be the morning topic and SNF Advanced Training could be the afternoon topic
- Open House Forums should not be held during the last week of the month and the first few days of the following month because of the provider's increased financial activities that occur during these times.

Benefits Exhaust and No-Pay Billing Instructions

Kathy Maris gave a brief overview of CR 4292 that was published on 04/28/06. It will be effective on 10/02/06. Janice will e-mail the document "Benefits Exhaust and No-Pay Billing Instructions" to today's participants. Janice provided the schedule for our "Ask the Contractor" teleconferences that will be held in July in all 4 regions. Marijean said that the web posting would be out shortly. It is vital that SNF providers register for this teleconference so that their claims will be billed correctly.

Return to Provider Processing Changes

Effective for claims submitted on or after June 1, 2006, those claims that have been returned to the provider (RTP) for the same correction 3 times, will reject. For the provider's convenience, the RTP'd reason code will be displayed in the remarks section (page 4) of the rejected claim. A new claim will need to be submitted.

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

NPIs will be required on claims sent in on or after May 23, 2007. Providers need to get their NPI now. Sub-units must apply for an NPI in order to be paid properly. Our website has links to the CMS NPI guidelines.

Kathy Reep said that CMS cannot require a provider to obtain an NPI for their sub-units. To do so would be a HIPAA violation. Kathy said that it used to be up to the provider to decide if they wanted to obtain an NPI for their sub-units but, now, the "Payment Side" of CMS is saying that providers must get an NPI for their sub-units when, in reality, they do not. Kathy referred the participants to www.wedi.com and to check "What's New-NPI" that is dated 05/31/06.

It should be noted that Mutual of Omaha Medicare has not been instructed by CMS that providers do not have to obtain NPIs for their sub-units.

UB-04

Providers are reminded that the UB-04 and the NPI are to be implemented on May 23, 2007. Mutual of Omaha Medicare will provide educational information on the UB-04 as soon as it is available.

Holding of Claims

Claims will be held for the last 9 days of September. Members suggested that Mutual of Omaha Medicare have a "scrolling notice" on our website so that providers will be reminded of this each time they access our webpage.

Training Topic Suggestions

- SNF Consolidated Billing
- Updates on Contractor Reform
- Consolidation of trading partners

Janelle reminded everyone that there are several Computer Based Trainings on our website and SNF Consolidated Billing is one of them.

When there was no further discussion, Janice thanked everyone for their participation in the Southeast PCOM Advisory Group. The date of our next PCOM Advisory Group teleconference has yet to be determined.

The meeting concluded at 2:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Janice M. Tait – Clearwater Office
June 14, 2006