



www.wpsmedicare.com

**WPS Medicare
Provider Outreach and Education (POE) Advisory Group – Western Region
Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 2007
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM PT
Teleconference

Members Present:

Dr. Hill – Washoe Health
Sharon Sandow – Tenet Healthcare
Wesla Arambulo – Skilled Healthcare, LLC
Cathy Schmidt – Ensign Group
Charlie Harrison – Boulder City Hospital
Diane Olivas – Tenet Healthcare
Debbie Wickersham – LTC Quick Recovery
Judy Lee - Ensign Group
Kelly Collins - Plum Healthcare
Tanya Hoagland - WPS Medicare
John Wrynn – WPS Medicare
Janet Mateo – WPS Medicare

Meeting:

Tanya Hoagland facilitated the meeting.
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Tanya reiterated to the members that the primary purpose of the POE Advisory Group is to suggest educational topics and the format for future outreach and education events. These educational events include seminars, Ask-the-Contractor Teleconference (ACT) calls, Computer Based Training (CBT) subjects on the WPS' Website, and our monthly newsletter articles.

Group Input and Feedback:

Training Topics and Upcoming Training: Tanya Hoagland

Tanya went over the training scheduled so far for the second quarter of FY08 which includes 4 ACT calls for January and 3 ACT calls in February. There will also be three workshops during the second quarter.

Recommended Topics for Upcoming Training: Seminars, “Ask the Contractor” Teleconferences (ACT), Computer Based Training (CBT) sessions, Newsletter articles. Members recommended workshop(s) for SNF Documentation/Clinical Issues and SNF Billing. Knotts Berry Farm in Southern CA, Fairfield or the Sacramento area in Northern CA, and the Sea-Tac area in Washington were suggested for workshop venues.

Members would also like either workshops or ACT calls regarding the RAC audit coming up in the area. Tanya advised there is a WPS Medicare workgroup formed for the RAC audits and she will be holding ACT calls in reference to the RAC audits once WPS Medicare gets more



information on what to expect. A member asked for the RAC audits to become a standing agenda topic.

Provider Issues:

A member had asked to go over any new edits implemented since the last meeting, especially in reference to SNF No-Pay/Benefits Exhaust Part B billing. Tanya advised there were no new edits implemented, but if a provider is having trouble getting claims to go through to give her a call so she can see what is happening.

The main edit implemented in the last quarter was reason code 50192 for Questionable Covered Services. This was implemented on 11/1/07 and an ACT call was held prior to this implementation to answer any questions.

Contractor Updates and Issues:

- **Transition:** Tanya went over the recent Mutual of Omaha – Medicare transition to WPS which occurred November 5, 2007. She also mentioned WPS was awarded the J5 MAC contract since the last meeting. She then went on to state all WPS providers are still part of WPS' Legacy contract with CMS and will not be transitioning to Palmetto GBA when they take over the MAC contract for the CA area. Any provider currently using WPS as their FI will be staying with WPS until CMS states otherwise. It is not known when this will take place, but it is not anticipated to happen for a few years yet.
- **CMS Quarterly Provider updates** - the CMS Website contains a useful reference page containing all program changes during the past quarters for specific provider types.
- **WPS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** - another source of reference on the WPS Medicare Website for answers to the most commonly asked questions.

Next Meeting:

March 5, 2008
10:00 am Pacific Time