

Provider Communications (PCOM) Advisory Group Minutes

9:30a.m.-12:00 noon

June 16, 2005

SpringHill Suites

Walker, Michigan

Members Present: (14)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call • Review of minutes from the March 2005 meeting. • One new member was welcomed to the group. 	Minutes were approved as written. Members were encouraged to bring guests that represent a specialty group that is not currently represented on the forum.
Integrative Healthcare Codes	<p>Information was presented on the “ABC Coding Manual” by one of the committee members. These codes will provide practitioners and integrative health care clinics with appropriate codes to describe the care they deliver, while improving favorable coverage and reimbursement for cost-effective care while supporting professional autonomy for integrative healthcare practitioners. This type of coding claims to save health plans and practitioners more than 75% in costs associated with claims management, in one of the faster growing segments of the health care industry. For further information on this topic please reference www.alternativeline.com.</p>	Members where very interested in this topic and commented that they would be interested in learning more on this topic. One member also commented that these types of services are currently being rendered in their office.
Ask-the-Contractor Teleconferences (ACTs)	<p>Wisconsin Physicians Service offers “Ask-the-Contractor” Open Door Forums similar to those provided by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). To date, two sessions have been offered on the following topics Critical Care/Emergency Room Services and Carve-Outs for Preventive Care. The intent of these teleconferences is to fold; educate all attending providers and provide an avenue to ask questions directly to representatives of the Medicare Part B Carrier.</p>	A couple of members had attended these sessions and thought that they were a great opportunity for learning and asking questions directly to representatives of the Medicare Part B Carrier.

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<p>Small Provider Training</p>	<p>Staff continues to look for innovative ways to reach small provider offices throughout the WPS four-state jurisdiction. Based on feedback received, many of the smaller offices have the same issues as larger offices. Staff from small provider offices may find traveling to educational sessions difficult due to lower staffing levels, time and financial resources allocated for travel. Suggestions for reaching the staff of small provider offices may include specialty specific teleconference calls during lunch time, partnering with other organizations and offering educational events in alternative locations.</p> <p>WPS will be offering a new web site conferencing software called iLinc. Recorded sessions will also be available on our web site, and require the viewer to have a sound card and either Windows Media Player or the iLinc Player to review the material.</p>	<p>Members will forward suggestions to staff for review.</p>
<p>Practical Solutions to Your Medicare Claim Denials and General Medicare seminar workbooks.</p>	<p>Members were pleased to see that WPS has incorporated many of their suggestions into both of the workbooks. Based on comments shared members thought that creating a General Medicare seminar workbooks to supplement each speciality seminar was both functional and practical. This workbook will provide attendees with additional information during educational sessions that is important to all providers of service.</p>	<p>Members asked that staff verify coding guidelines when providing the new Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE).</p>

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Updates	<p>Accessing information on Medicare benefits and guidelines is now easier than before. WPS is pleased to announce that as of May 1, 2005 we have a new Website address: www.wpsmedicare.com</p> <p>This address will take you directly to the WPS Medicare web site. If you already have the old web site bookmarked, that's ok! The old one will continue to work as well.</p>	
Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Physician Scarcity Area (PSA)	<p>Change Request (CR) 3822 allows the bonus payment on diagnostic and radiology services with a professional component/technical component indicator of 1 on the Medicare Physicians Fee Schedule Data-Base. This CR3822 also allows physicians the option not to receive PSA or HPSA bonus payment on services that would have been eligible. Providers choosing not to receive the HPSA and or PSA bonus payment should contact their Carrier to let them know.</p>	<p>Members commented that not all providers may want to receive a HPSA bonus payment on a quarterly basis due to bookkeeping problems.</p>
Medicare Part D	<p>The Social Security Administration (SSA) is currently in the process of mailing out applications to individuals that may be eligible for financial assistance to purchase Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will also notify individuals who automatically qualify for financial assistance to help them purchase this new benefit.</p> <p>Medicare beneficiaries that are currently receiving drug coverage through retiree health benefit programs, employer group health plans, etc. will receive a letter in the mail informing them of any possible options they might be entitled too.</p>	<p>Members requested a speaker from the Social Security Administration for the next meeting. They are interested in hearing more about the role that SSA will serve and benefits that will be offered.</p>

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<p>Updates- <i>continued</i></p>	<p>Beneficiaries may also access benefits and options available to them by accessing the following site www.medicare.gov. They should then scroll down to the icon titled "Find a Medicare Approved Drug Discount Card" and then click. They will then be guided through the system according to their input.</p> <p>Beneficiaries that enroll into the program after the initial enrollment period has ended may be subject to an increase in their premium.</p>	<p>Members volunteered to solicit physicians and "medical billers" that are not currently receiving the free listserv messages.</p>
<p>Listserv</p>	<p>Staff distributed a sign-up sheet for new Listserv subscribers.</p> <p>Next meeting:</p> <p>The new member of the group volunteered to provide a presentation on a topic of her choice for the next meeting. Staff will follow-up with her to discuss the material prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Future meetings: September 15, 2005 December 15, 2005</p>	