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Reimbursement News

Santa Clara County Medical Association/ 408/ 998-8850 www.sccma.org

Get up-to-date information on the Swine Flu by visiting www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

Visit our website at www.sccma.org for more news and calendar of events.

To help members begin to assess their HIT needs, CMA has partnered with Maxwell IT to provide complimentary registration to the EHR Best Practices Series webinars. To register for an upcoming EHR webinar, visit CMA's HIT Resource Center at www.cmanet.org/hit, and click on HIT Webinars. Members can register free. Use promo code 1UQZLN when registering. The offer is valid through May 30, 2009.

Red Flag Rule Compliance Date Pushed to Aug. 1

Largely as a result of AMA/CMA advocacy, physician practices now have until Aug. 1 to comply with the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) "red flag" rule, which requires physicians to institute policies to identify, detect and respond to potential risks of identity theft.

The rule originally was to have taken effect May 1, but the FTC voted on April 30 to delay the compliance date for three months.

The California Medical Association (CMA) has published a toolkit to help physicians and their staff, understand the scope and requirements of the Red Flag Rule. The toolkit provides guidance on designing and implementing an identity theft detection and prevention program for the physician practice. It also explains how the Red Flag Rule interacts or overlaps with other legal requirements governing the safeguarding of patient information, particularly the federal Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The toolkit is free to members only by going to the CMA website, www.cmanet.org.

Aetna Amends Physician Contracts

Aetna recently notified physicians in 16 counties, including Santa Clara, that their contracts will automatically be amended to include Medicare HMO, PPO, and private fee-for-service products effective January 1, 2011. SCCMA/CMA reminds physicians that before signing a health plan contract or contract amendment, it is important to know what value it will bring to your practice. Physicians do not have to accept bad contracts or contracts that are not mutually beneficial. If you do not want to participate in Aetna's Medicare network, you must notify the insurer in writing within 30 days. Opt-out notices should be sent via mail or email (It is recommended to use certified mail with return receipt) to: Barbara Brooks, Aetna Network Management, 6303 Owensmouth Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91367 or socalnm@aetna.com. The deadline to opt out for Northern California is May 20.