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Coding/Reimbursement News

Santa Clara County Medical Association ● 408/998-8850

Sign up for E-mail updates from
CMS by going to:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/tools.asp>
Click on Mailing Lists.

Unpaid Claims Piling up?



*Contact SCCMA's
Reimbursement
Specialist,
Sandie Becker, for
Assistance With:*

- Carrier failure to process "clean claims" in accordance with State law.
- Habitual downcoding
- Treatment authorization and subsequent denial
- Payment inconsistent with payer contract
- Coding guidance

Update to the Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) Benefit

Change Request (CR) 6223 (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6223.pdf>) announces that effective January 1, 2009, CMS is expanding coverage for the IPPE benefit. The expanded coverage allows payment for the IPPE no later than 12 months (rather than 6 months as previously required) after the date the individual's first coverage period begins under Medicare Part B. Changes to the IPPE benefit include the addition of the measurement of body mass index (BMI), and the end-of-life planning (upon an individual's consent). Additionally, the mandatory requirement of the screening EKG is removed; the screening will be optional. The new HCPCS code for the IPPE is G0402 and the beneficiary deductible is waived. To learn about more changes and billing requirements, click on the link above to download the related MLN Matters article.

E-prescribing Incentive Program

January 1, 2009 launches Medicare's E-prescribing Incentive Program. Eligible professionals who are "successful e-prescribers" will receive a 2% incentive payment in 2010 for participating during the 2009 calendar year. A "successful e-prescriber" is one who must report the e-prescribing quality measure through your Medicare Part B claims on **at least 50%** of applicable cases during the reporting year. To be eligible for the incentive in 2009, you must be an eligible professional whose estimated allowed Medicare Part B charges for the e-prescribing measure codes are **at least 10%** of their total Medicare Part B allowed charges. For example, in 2009 if an eligible professional has \$100,000 in estimated allowed Medicare Part B charges, at least \$10,000 of these charges must be based on the HCPCS codes that are in the denominator of the E-prescribing Incentive Program measure. For more details and reporting guidelines you may download "Medicare's Practical Guide to the E-prescribing Incentive Program" under **Related Links Inside CMS** by going to: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/03_EPrescribingIncentiveProgram.asp - TopOfPage.

You may also download "A Clinician's Guide to Electronic Prescribing" at www.ehealthinitiative.org and click on *Electronic Prescribing* located in the top toolbar.

CMA On-Call Documents

Did you know that you could get answers to many questions relating to a range of topics? CMA has an online library containing thousands of pages of medical-legal, regulatory, and reimbursement information. These ON-CALL documents are available free to members and can be found on CMA's website at www.cmanet.org. Registering is easy and free! You will need your California medical license number and six-digit CMA Id number to create an account.