

# STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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## Stellar Software

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Read previous issues of Stellar Good News on the resources page of our website!

## Improved User Accounts

We have improved the user account/log-in system in Stellar to support more users (up to 50) and fine-tuned restrictions and controls. This allows the administrator to restrict access to certain programs and operations. These new improvements make it easier to manage the use of Stellar in a larger staff environment.

The Password/User Admin tab in Configuration Options (Tools/Configuration Options/Insurance, Billing and Appointment Options menu) has been overhauled to be more user-friendly and support the new enhancements.

Allow	User Access Permissions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Configuration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View Patient Profiles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Add/Modify Patient Profiles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Post Services and Patient Payments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Post Insurance Payments and Adjustments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remove Transactions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View Patient History
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Modify Patient History (without Requiring Removal)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access Clinic Reports

Users can also now manage their own passwords from the Tools/User Password Change menu item, and a password expiration can be set to require that the password be changed on a regular basis.

If a user tries to access a program that is beyond their permission level, they will be given the opportunity to have a supervisor log in and temporarily elevate their

permission level for that program. By default, if more than 3 log-in attempts fail in a row, the user account will be deactivated, requiring re-activation by the administrator from the Password/User Admin tab in Configuration Options.

## Stellar Updates

Here are some of our additional recent enhancements and updates to Stellar. (Go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update to open our webpage with the complete list.)

### Insurance Treatment Payment Ratio

Added approximate treatment payment

ratio report (requires specific payments to be entered).

### Insurance Carriers

"Use Modifiers" is now turned on by default when adding a new carrier.

## **Paper & Electronic Prepare Special**

Added treatment submit status column to selection list.

## **Insurance Aging**

Added ability to filter by account code.

## **Insurance Log**

Added Single Carrier filter option.

## **Referrals**

Added phone number field.

## **EZNotes Interface**

Now supports importing 8 diagnosis, 4 modifiers, and diagnosis onset date.

## **Quick Change**

Corrected possible rewrite error if the grid was used a certain way.

## **HHS Announces Delay in ICD-10 Implementation**

*Source: American Chiropractic Association, via DynamicChiropractic.com*

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen G. Sebelius has announced a postponement for the implementation of ICD-10.

The delay comes as the result of feedback from the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association and the provider community. Each expressed concerns about the challenges and administrative burdens implementation will place on providers.

Marilyn Tavenner, acting CMS administrator, states that CMS will be re-examining the pace of ICD-10 implementation. The revised deadline date should be announced soon.

Although the deadline is postponed, it's important to prepare for this transition. ACA has a Web page ( <http://tinyurl.com/6ppb8u9> ) dedicated to ICD-10. Please check this page frequently for important updates.

## **Why is the FDA Ignoring Its Own Scientists' Warnings About Amalgam?**

*From Mercola.com, by Dr. Mercola*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has 50 committees and panels that it depends on to obtain independent expert advice on scientific, technical and policy matters.

However, the FDA is NOT legally required to follow its committee's recommendations, and, unfortunately, the FDA has a long history of

ignoring its panelists' advice if it doesn't uphold a pro-industry position -- even to the point of disagreeing with their own FDA scientific experts.

This is precisely the case with silver amalgam (mercury) fillings; the agency has repeatedly ignored its expert panels' advice to get mercury out of fillings for kids and pregnant women.

The ongoing saga has continued for far too long, with the FDA repeatedly defying the sound scientific and commonsense judgments of its own expert panel.

## **FDA Ignores its Own Experts... Again**

In 2009, the FDA went against its expert panels' advice and ruled there will be no warnings to patients, not even young women and parents of young children, that the mercury in the fillings is a dangerous reproductive toxin and a neurotoxin.

They even gave the amalgam industry the green light to sell and use amalgam fillings (restorations) without disclosing to consumers that the fillings are mainly mercury, even though the agency is aware of the industry's long-time deceptive practice of marketing amalgam as "silver fillings."

*Still*, the agency hesitated, even though the scientists had made it very clear that amalgam use in children, pregnant women and certain hypersensitive adults needs to stop. As the Campaign for Mercury-Free Dentistry reported:

*"Here's the FDA scientific advisory panel in its own words: Dr. Kotagal said there is "no place for mercury in children," Dr. Ismail said "children less than 6 years of age, I would restrict it significantly," Dr. Thompson said "definitely not in pregnant women and definitely not in those below 6 years of age," Dr. Fleming said we need contraindications for pregnant women, and Dr. Burbacher said, "why put amalgams in children if we know they're going to live with that for the rest of their lives? And we don't know what that's going to do."*

*Not a single panelist agreed with FDA's 2009 rule that permitted unrestricted amalgam use in children and pregnant women. FDA has heard that message before: in 2006 its advisory panel concluded – by a 13 to 7 vote – that amalgam is not generally safe for everybody. But FDA did nothing."*

*Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/6rduyoo>*