

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!

Medicare Scam

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has become aware of a scam where perpetrators are sending faxes to physician offices posing as the Medicare carrier or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).

The fax instructs physician staff to respond to a questionnaire to provide an account information update within 48 hours in order to prevent a gap in Medicare payments. The fax may have the CMS logo and/or the contractor logo to enhance the appearance of authenticity.

Medicare FFS providers, including physicians, non-physician practitioners, should be wary of this type of request. If you receive a request for information in the manner described above, please check with your contractor before submitting any information.

Medicare providers should only send information to a Medicare contractor using the address found in the download section of the CMS.gov website found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/> or <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll>

The Future of DC's in Healthcare

Ronald E. Edgar, DC.

I have received several letters requesting that I email, fax, phone several different people involved with healthcare reform legislation, including Palmer College and a Cleveland student, for DC participation. This brings up the topic of inclusion for DC's into

whatever plan emerges. DC's asking to be included in a meaningful way; has this worked?

Why not inquire as to what it would take for DC's to be included? These two are very different in their approach. The old way of asking to be included does not seem to be working.

When will the DC's put pressure on our Colleges to do whatever it takes to be included in any and all healthcare plans? The state associations and boards of examiners combined can jolt the Colleges into making the changes needed so that the constant battles for DC's can stop and we as a profession can return our focus back to our patients. How many DC's are sick and tired of the daily politics we have put up with for years? I have sent plans to completely overhaul the total healthcare system from the ground up along with ideas as to what place DC's could play in healthcare reform, these went to key members of the Washington elite. Our Colleges have done very little too late in my opinion, to overcome our weak position in healthcare. There will be no miracle to even the playing field of healthcare for DC's without a major change and direction starting with our Colleges. It is apparent that an outside source will have to do the work of what the Colleges are unwilling to do, and reach out and provide the forum for change and adaptation for the 21st century healthcare providers. The dinosaurs did not change and they became fossils; are DC's destined to become fossils of healthcare?

DC's seem to be viewed as non-essential; look at Canada and

what has happened to DC's there. What can be done to overcome this view of being non-essential? It should be clear that DC's need to be on a path to becoming an essential part of mainstream healthcare, or face up to the reality to being left on the sidelines. All non-MD/DO practitioners have lost their participation in workers comp in California, the MD's and DO's are always included in healthcare plans, can't DC's learn from these two professions?

Our Colleges could take out loans on their school property, pool the funds together and hire the necessary lobbying firms including top law firms and strike a blow for all DC's now! Keep in mind that you, the graduate DC paid for your College in fees, they did not. Now you can see that the Colleges exist mainly for themselves. A sample letter can be found at the Stellar web site (www.stellarchiro.com) this can be used to get some meaningful action out of the Ivory Tower Colleges, use it as is or make any changes you desire. Any action is better than sitting back and doing nothing, your future is in your hands. Stop complaining and get busy and do something, there are many ideas for a course of action to take discussed in the past Stellar newsletters and on the web site above. Nothing ventured nothing gained! Good luck.

Stellar Updates

Recent changes and updates to Stellar (go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update for the complete list):

Patients

Fixed "Item Resolved" being automatically checked when adding a new memo.

Electronic Claims

Removed billing provider commercial number for Michigan HMO carriers.

Stopped using license numbers with Michigan BCBS claims.

Insurance Carriers, Diagnosis

Added "Alert if Non-Approved Diagnosis" option to carriers. If checked, you will be alerted when saving the patient if any of the 4 main diagnosis do not have the correct approval level checked in the diagnosis file.

Appointment Listing

Fixed occasional "no appointments" message when printing.

Fixed lines on second page sometimes printing too close to the heading.

Insurance Log

Fixed failure to purge log after printing.

Posting

Allowed automatic write-offs for non-insurance treatments.

Payments & Corrections

Fixed bug where undisplayed dates-of-service with the same submit date could be marked paid if showing just a single treatment date.

Email Newsletter

Get the Stellar newsletter delivered every month to your inbox! We just need to know your email address and which office you're with. You can either give us your email address the next time you call, send a message to support@stellarchiro.com, or supply it on the Stellar Office Update page when you download an update (go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update).

Stellar Update CDs

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are considering a revision to our current policy of sending update CDs out every six months for offices that have high-speed internet.

We are considering a revision to this policy such that offices having high-speed internet will no longer receive update CDs unless requested, or unless we feel that enough significant changes have been made that you should have a copy of the update CD on hand.

This will not affect offices that do not have high-speed internet, or have special needs requiring an update CD, or who request to receive an update CD anyway. We are not making any changes yet, but we would like your feedback before we do. *Do you mind not receiving a CD if you have high-speed internet, or would you prefer to continue the current update CD schedule? Let us know!*

Backups (are you doing them regularly?)

It is very important to do regular backups of your Stellar data, weekly at a minimum, and preferably daily. There's no excuse not to. You can get a pair of 4GB USB/Flash/Thumb drives from any major general or electronics store for about \$20, and they are fast, easy to use, and will last indefinitely. And when something happens to your computer (it will eventually!), you'll be very glad you backed up! **Give us a call today and we'll help you set up a regular backup routine!**