

# STELLAR GOOD NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 8

1-800-741-4755

August 2010



## Contents

- ★ Free Billing and Visit Sheets
- ★ Stellar Updates
- ★ AMA's "Contain and Eliminate" Tactics Alive and Well
- ★ Idaho Orthopedists Settle Antitrust Case over Boycotts
- ★ Idaho Antitrust Attack on Docs Chilling Sign



## Stellar Software

### Our Staff...

Josiah Reynolds  
Lori Tauer



124 1/2 North Willow Street  
P.O. Box 1045  
Harrison, AR 72601  
1-800-741-4755 support  
1-870-741-5070 fax  
[www.stellarchiro.com](http://www.stellarchiro.com)

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

## Free Billing Statements and Visit Sheets

We found some spare forms while cleaning the office that we don't need. If you can use these let us know. We have:

\* 9 reams (2250 sheets) of pre-printed cut-sheet billing statements.

\* About 1750 pre-printed tractor-feed billing statements.

\* About 750 pre-printed tractor-feed visit sheets.

(Tractor-feed sheets can also be used in regular printers if you tear the tractor strips off or use a paper cutter to remove them.)

## Stellar Updates

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

### Demographics

Added referral statistics to report.

### Posting

Fixed a possibility that after installing the June 17th update a \$0 charge could come up on services after adding a modifier to a service that didn't have one set to come up automatically.

### Daily/Monthly/Yearly Summaries

Fixed the possibility of getting a blank summary page for an old or non-existent provider after the June 17th update.

### Payments & Corrections

Replaced the Raise/Lower Patient Part buttons with a single Adjust Patient Part button, which now

has an option to "Set" the desired Patient Part along with Raise and Lower.

### Appointment Listing

Can now print by provider even when configured for clinic period limits.

Fixed issue where only provider 1's shift hours being printed when printing by provider.

### Multi-Column Appointments

Vacation hours were not operating correctly.

## AMA's "Contain and Eliminate" Tactics Alive and Well

*From Dynamic Chiropractic volume 28, issue 15, by Louis Sportelli, DC*

As a modern-day doctor of chiropractic, you may think this article is born of ancient paranoia. Perhaps you're convinced this is about AMA bashing and yesterday's news. But just look around and you will see clear and compelling evidence that the long-standing war between the AMA and everyone else who does not come under the AMA umbrella is far from over. The names have changed, the venue has changed, the approach has changed and the legality has changed, but the intent has remained the same: to maintain monopolistic control over the delivery of health care.

### AMA Policies Continue to Discriminate

It was not that long ago - 1963, to be exact - that the AMA formed its infamous "Committee on Quackery," whose mission was to

"contain and eliminate" the chiropractic profession. Please let those two words, contain and eliminate, resonate for a moment, because 47 years later, the AMA House of Delegates, more specifically the Ophthalmology and Anesthesiology delegates, have introduced a resolution regarding scope of practice. Specifically, they are targeting the Public Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), because it contains language deemed "troubling" based on AMA policy; for example, H-405.969, Definition of a Physician: "The AMA affirms that a physician is an individual who has received a 'Doctor of Medicine' or a 'Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine' degree," and H-160.936, Comprehensive Physical Examinations by Appropriate Practitioners, which declares that "the performance of comprehensive physical examinations to diagnose medical conditions [should be limited] to licensed MDs/DOs or those practitioners who are directly supervised by licensed MDs/DOs."

It does not get much clearer than that. Such language is not drafted for the purpose of generating a nice-sounding resolution to be filed away and not acted upon. It is a declaration of war on any health practitioner who is not an MD or DO! Unfortunately, other indicators abound that not only the AMA, but also individual state medical associations, are mobilizing their forces or are already on the offensive.

### **Efforts to Limit Scope of Practice**

As many of you know, the Texas Medical Board of Examiners filed an action against the Texas Chiropractic Board of Examiners alleging that the chiropractic board has no authority to authorize DCs to do manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) or needle electromyogram (EMG). If that were not bad enough, the medical board suggested that "diagnosis" can only be performed by a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy.

*Read the rest at:*  
[http://www.dynamicchiropractic.com/mpacms/dc/column.php?c\\_id=1537](http://www.dynamicchiropractic.com/mpacms/dc/column.php?c_id=1537)

## **Idaho orthopedists settle antitrust case over alleged insurer boycotts**

*By Amy Lynn Sorrel, Amednews*

Several Idaho orthopedists and orthopedic groups agreed to settle federal civil allegations that the physicians conspired to secure higher fees from the state's workers' compensation program and a local insurer, in violation of antitrust laws.

The Dept. of Justice accused the Idaho Sports Medicine Institute, the Idaho Orthopaedic Society and five orthopedists of collectively boycotting patients covered by workers' compensation insurance to pressure the Idaho Industrial Commission to raise the rates it paid for treating injured workers. The department said the boycotts took place from 2006 to 2008. The state commission regulates workers' compensation claims, insurance and fee schedules.

Federal officials also alleged that all but one of the orthopedists threatened to terminate their contracts with Blue Cross of Idaho in 2008 to leverage more favorable fees.

*Read the rest at:* <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/06/14/gvse0616.htm>

## **Antitrust law is a chilling attack on docs -- and a sign of things to come**

*From Idaho Freedom Foundation*

The future of socialized medicine is already here, and it looks like this: The government is going to insist that doctors treat patients according to the government's terms and conditions. If they protest, argue, complain, fight or plead, they will be pegged as part of a grand conspiracy and silenced. It's happening already.

Recently, the state and federal governments fought a group of Idaho doctors because they decided they would no longer participate in the government's worker's compensation system.

The doctors were upset with the Idaho Industrial Commission's decision in February 2006 to cut reimbursement rates for orthopedic surgeons. Some of the doctors discussed the commission's decision with one another, exchanged emails and, ultimately, according to the government, the orthopedists began announcing they were no longer going to treat workers' compensation patients. ...

Separately, in December 2007, the doctors took issue with Blue Cross of Idaho's decision to reduce rates. ...

The government deemed both the decision to boycott the treatment of worker's compensation patients and the decision to drop out of the Blue Cross network conspiracies in violation of state and federal antitrust laws. The government says there was a grand conspiracy to fix prices. No, there was not.

*Read the rest at:*  
<http://www.idahofreedom.net/blog/antitrust-law-chilling-attack-docs-and-sign-things-come>