

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!

New Claim Creation Programs

We have just added a new set of claim creation programs that have been under construction for some time. Three major improvements have been made:

- 1. An error report is now automatically displayed prior to beginning claim output.** This allows you to cancel the claim creation process and fix the errors first, rather than having to do a resubmit if errors were found during the output process.
- 2. You can now preview electronic claims in CMS-1500 (paper) format.** This way you can visually review the claims prior to creating the electronic file.
- 3. Preliminary support for the new 5010 electronic claims format is now available.** We will be working with you soon to send test claims to your receiver and make sure you are ready or already transmitting 5010 format by the January 1, 2012 mandated switchover date. **Please note that using the new programs will not cause you to begin sending 5010 format.** You will not be switched from the current 4010 format to the new 5010 format until you have worked with us to complete whatever testing procedures are required by your receiver.

You will not immediately see the changes after downloading the latest update. The new programs are currently opt-in, due to the extent of the improvements made. We have done extensive testing and have no reason to believe that any problems will arise, but as a precaution we are keeping the old

tried-and-true programs available.

In order to enable and begin using the new and improved programs, you will first have to download the latest update (or request an update CD), and after installing the update, go to Tools, Configuration Options, Insurance Billing & Appointment Options, and uncheck the "Use Old Claims Programs" check box in the bottom-right corner. Click Save, and the new programs will be activated.

5010 Electronic Claims Testing

With the addition of preliminary 5010 support in the new claim creation programs, we are beginning the 5010 testing process immediately. We will be calling you in the next several weeks to find out about your current electronic claims situation and who you are transmitting to. We'll then start working with you to get you tested and 5010-ready with them.

Stellar Updates

Here are some of our 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.)

Appointment Listing

Added option to sort by patient name.

Posting, Payments & Corrections

Made some changes that should improve multi-client network

performance.

Appointment Alerts

Discovered alerts were only displaying once and then failing to update; corrected so that alerts will pop up every 5 minutes or so.

Payments & Corrections

Corrected possible balance error under certain circumstances when posting insurance.

Letters

Corrected New Letter not working from a client computer.

Patients

Corrected service status and submit dates not showing in Transaction History if displayed using View Hist button in Posting.

Billing for Phone Calls and Communication With Patients and Providers

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Samuel A. Collins

Q: I am spending a considerable amount of time with phone calls, particularly with physicians to whom I have referred or from whom I have been referred a patient. There are also instances that I may spend 15-30 minutes with a patient on the phone to discuss specific issues of their care or case.

Is there any way to bill for this time spent on the phone?

A: Indeed, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual does have coding specific to both of these situations and they are billable. However, there are specific guidelines for their use that may limit their application depending on the circumstances of the encounter.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/425zrgh>

Antimicrobial copper kills 97 percent of deadly bacteria, reduces infection rate by 40 percent

From NaturalNews.com, by Jonathan Benson, staff writer

(NaturalNews) A new study presented at the World Health Organization's (WHO) 1st International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC) in Geneva,

Switzerland, has revealed that the use of antimicrobial copper surfaces in hospitals helps reduce the rate of hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) by 40 percent. The metal also effectively kills 97 percent of bacteria, as well as many viral and fungal pathogens.

Conducted at three intensive care units (ICUs) in the US, the study found that when conventional surfaces were replaced with copper surfaces, patient HAI rates dropped by 40.4 percent. And direct tests involving deadly pathogens and copper surfaces revealed that the antimicrobial metal quickly and effectively kills the vast majority of pathogens it comes into contact with, including many pathogens that have developed resistance to antibiotics and other drug interventions.

"Copper's rapid destruction of pathogens could prevent mutational resistance developing and also help reduce the spread of antibiotic resistance genes to receptive and potentially more virulent organisms, as well as genes responsible for virulence," said Prof. Bill Keevil, head of the Microbiology Group and director of the Environmental Healthcare Unit at the University of Southampton in the UK.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/3urws4t>

If You had a Ten-Year Safe Would You Put in One Ounce of Gold or \$1600?

From Mercola.com, by Dr. Mercola

Gold has retained value throughout history. It is still an attractive alternative to cash today -- investors, central banks and the astute are buying gold.

Ron Paul asked Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke on July 13, 2011 whether or not he watches the price of gold and if he thinks gold is money. Although Bernanke admitted that he does watch the price of gold, Bernanke either lied or incompetently said that gold is not money, it is only an asset. He explained that central banks only hold gold as a "tradition."

The truth is, gold has been accepted as money throughout all civilizations over periods of thousands of years. Perhaps Bernanke doesn't want U.S. citizens to wake up and realize that they can opt-out of the criminal Federal Reserve system if they get rid of their U.S. dollars and store at least some of their wealth in gold and silver.

Videos at: <http://tinyurl.com/3fejdaf>