

STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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Contents

- ☆ **Faster Data-Storage Method for Networks**
- ☆ **Barcode Reader Support**
- ☆ **Stellar Updates**
- ☆ **'Train wreck' Obamacare begins to unravel**
- ☆ **Michigan Association of Chiropractors Wins Historic Court Ruling**

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Stellar Software

Our Staff...

Josiah Reynolds

Terry Kelley

Lori Tauer

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124 1/2 North Willow Street
P.O. Box 635
Harrison, AR 72601
1-800-741-4755 support
1-870-741-5070 fax
www.stellarchiro.com

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

Faster Data-Storage Method for Networks

Over the past year we have been working on an enhanced method of storing data which will allow us to add advanced capabilities to Stellar in the future.

While we don't yet have any new features which require this new storage method, one immediate advantage is that it is better designed to handle multiple Stellar users over a network. This means that client computers in multiple computer offices that have been running noticeably slower than the main or server computer will be able to communicate better and run faster, especially when running long reports.

The speed increase is not quite as dramatic as we had initially hoped for when starting the project, and can actually be slower if only a single computer (no network) is involved, but the current programs were not designed with this new system in mind and there is more room for improvement going forward.

PLEASE NOTE that this new storage method is **NOT** enabled automatically as it requires a data conversion process and some additional setup to make it work. The conversion process and setup usually takes about an hour.

If you are running a multi-computer networked setup with Stellar and would like to give this new system a try, please give us a call and we can discuss setting you up with it.

Barcode Reader Support

A "Special Lookup Code" has been added to the treatment files, which can be used for either a short (3 or 4 character) lookup code, or a 6-20 digit code which can store a scanned-in barcode number to allow the treatment to be located with a "keyboard emulation" barcode scanner.

A "keyboard emulation" scanner can be plugged into your computer and pretends to be a keyboard from your computer's perspective. When it scans a barcode, it "types" the decoded characters into the computer and then "presses" the enter/return key. A handheld laser scanner with a stand can be found for as little as \$30 (like the one we purchased for testing).

The Posting program has been changed to automatically jump to the last line when enter/return is pressed in the key field, allowing multiple codes to be scanned in at once.

This new feature allows you to scan in UPC barcodes for posting products, or create your own "Code39" barcodes in an office document using a special font, enabling you to scan in things such as CPT codes. (Stellar does not yet have the capability to print these barcodes for you.)

Stellar Updates

Here are some of our more important 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.)

Config, Multi-Column Appointments

Added Covering Hours table (sort of the reverse of Vacation Hours).

Unresolved Insurance Memos

Added new report for listing unresolved insurance memos (located under Reports/Patient Reports).

Posting

Added facility selection to provider verification dialog.

Visit Sheets

Added Single Scheduled Patient option.

Zipcodes

Updated standard zipcode list, removed non-primary cities.

Michigan Payer List

Updated payer list and improved operation.

Fee Schedules, Posting

Carrier Fee Schedule Exceptions now inherit Allowed Amounts from the shared Contracted Carrier Fee Schedule.

Insurance Carriers, All Claims

Added VA-Veterans Affairs insurance carrier type.

Narrative Report

Increased maximum size of some fields.

Main Menu

Removed Special Claims Submit menu item, now accessed through Special Claims by clicking Print/Create Claims.

EZNotes Interface

"Change" checkbox is now automatically turned on if the imported diagnosis date changes even when the diagnoses themselves haven't.

Electronic Claims

Corrected possible problem with resubmitting primary claims that have associated EOB information.

Corrected an issue when "Benefits Assigned to Clinic" is unchecked.

Paper Claims

Removed box 17 automatic self referral for Cahaba GBA Medicare (AL/GA/TN).

Read Remittance

Updated reason code list.

Added totals for clean claims, claims requiring attention, and error claims to the pre-posting report.

Prevented auto-posting for reason code 18 (duplicate claim/service).

Payments & Corrections

Corrected IN/AN date problem when fixing date of mis-posted Insurance Payment.

'Train wreck' Obamacare begins to unravel

Massive government boondoggle set to self-destruct by 2015

From NaturalNews.com, by Mike Adams (NaturalNews) Even before it is fully implemented, Obamacare is already starting to

self-destruct. The White House announced last week it will simply invent its own interpretation of the law and "delay the enforcement" of the employer Obamacare mandate for another year, to 2015. This, we are told, is to allow businesses more time to "smooth" compliance with the law, but that's only the cover story. In reality, the entire private sector economy was preparing to fire tens of millions of workers, cut their hours and radically downsize companies in order to avoid going bankrupt under Obamacare mandates that no one can afford.

Described as a "train wreck" by one of its original authors (Sen. Baucus), and called a "fiasco for the ages" by the Wall Street Journal, Obamacare is a massive government boondoggle that's headed for complete disaster.

In a desperate effort to get out of the way of that oncoming train, insurance companies are scrambling to flee the market entirely. America's largest health insurer, UnitedHealth, has just announced it's closing shop in California and walking away from all health insurance customers there.

That's how bad Obamacare really is, even for the insurance companies: it's better to close up shop than even attempt to serve customers under the government's onerous rules.

U.S. businesses, meanwhile, are engaged in a new wave of job offshoring to India, Pakistan and the Philippines, where Obamacare doesn't exist and an entire workers' salary can be less than the cost of health insurance in the U.S. all by itself. The realization has hit everyone who owns or runs a business: Obamacare will bankrupt America's private sector unless businesses take proactive measures to minimize the hiring U.S. workers.

This is especially true in low-wage jobs -- such as the food service industry -- where an employee's contribution to a business simply isn't that valuable to begin with.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/lxmhsm2>

Michigan Association of Chiropractors Wins Historic Court Ruling

From DynamicChiropractic.com

On April 18, 2013, in an historic victory for the chiropractic profession, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that MAC lawsuits against Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) and Blue Care Network (BCN) could move forward as class-action lawsuits, meaning that damages could be awarded.

Michigan Association of Chiropractors (MAC) President Dr. Dennis Whitford was elated with the victory, which he called a "tremendous win and important step on the road to overall victory" in the lawsuits.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/mh7uoby>