

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!

Stellar Updates

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

Pre-Insurance Report

Added option to show Service Detail, with information on CPT code, modifiers and charge.

Added ability to sort results by Doctor number, then Claim Type, then Insurance Key, then Patient Name.

Multi-Column Appointments

Can now resize window to show more than 4 columns.

Posting/Daily Transactions

Enhanced screen layout to be slightly more organized.

Search History

"Show Patients found" option now lists more statistical information about services found (item count, visit totals, doctors, debits, credits).

Patients

Progress Notes are now removed upon asking for confirmation when deleting a patient's record.

Providers

Added Acupuncturist as a provider type.

Paper & Electronic Claims

Now converts 97014 to G0283 for carrier UMR (payer ID 39026) and American Medical Security (payer ID 81400).

Various Programs

Prevented addition of multiple blank records by holding down the enter key.

Demand Bill

The total line header text wasn't

showing if configured to use plain paper.

What to Do About Refund Requests

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Tom Necela, DC

There is a rapidly growing and disturbing trend you may have noticed making its way toward your office [regarding carrier refund requests]. From the e-mails I receive, I have good reason to believe it is happening more frequently and indiscriminately - regardless of where you practice, how you practice or whom your primary payers are.

For most chiropractors, in addition to being just plain irritating, the appropriate reaction to this phenomenon is a bit perplexing.

While this description may fit a number of our practice pests, the bugger that is our specific focus today is refund requests. Like a small flesh wound, many DCs wonder how to handle this irritant. Do you just ignore it, and hope it will go away? Do you seek professional attention? Do you fight back or pay it back?

Read the rest at:
<http://tinyurl.com/296lduc>

Texas Judge Rules on Diagnosis Issue

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Editorial Staff

Put yourself in the position of a practicing doctor of chiropractic in Texas right about now (if you are one, this is easy). With the Texas Medical Board and Texas Medical

Association breathing down your neck, threatening to take away your right to diagnose (or even use the word diagnosis in your scope-of-practice act, claiming that by medical definition, the word is reserved for medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy), a Texas judge has ruled in your favor - depending on your perspective.

While Judge Stephen Yelenosky rejected the TMB/TMA reasoning that diagnosis does not apply to non-MD/DO providers, he did render the chiropractic scope-of-practice act null and void as currently written. By all accounts, any rewrite will need to update the current language in the act, which does not include the word diagnosis (but according to the Texas Chiropractic Association and others, clearly implies it by stating that DCs can "analyze, examine and evaluate"). It is unclear whether the revised scope will need to satisfy Judge Yelenosky's prior suggestion that chiropractic diagnosis should be limited to "the biomechanical condition of the spine and the musculoskeletal system."

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/2fjby3a>

Dying cancer patients subjected to expensive, meaningless cancer screening tests

From NaturalNews.com, by S. L. Baker

(NaturalNews) Earlier this year, NaturalNews reported the kind of story that almost seems too far-fetched to be true. According to a study by University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) researchers that was published in the American Journal of Public Health, unneeded, expensive mammograms are regularly pushed on elderly women who are incapacitated and dying from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, especially if the patients still have assets of \$100,000 or more.

Think the cancer screening industry couldn't get any greedier than that example? Think again.

Another study, just out in the October 13 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) concludes a sizeable proportion of terminally ill cancer patients are being subjected to common, expensive (and often painful) cancer screening tests. And these tests provide virtually no benefit whatsoever to those dying of cancer -- although they do hike up medical bills and profits for health care providers.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/2d3kzx5>

Beware of GMOs: Genes Remain a Mystery to Scientists

From NaturalNews.com, by Kim Evans

(NaturalNews) As scientists are busy manipulating the genes of edibles including corn, soybeans, canola, papaya, zucchini, and now rice and salmon, an interesting fact comes into light about what exactly scientists know and don't know about human genes. According to geneticist Steven Salzberg of the University of Maryland, "Not only do we not know what all the genes are - we don't even know how many there are."

Genetically manipulated foods have been found to change the genetic structure of our healthy bacteria - and this makes one wonder if GMO foods might be altering our own genetic make-up as well. But if they are, how would we know? By a geneticist's own words, scientists can't even find all of our genes - let alone know what they all do or how they'll act if they are changed. In addition, one gene often controls several different things - and with scientists not even knowing all of the genes we have, it makes it pretty difficult to know where to look when things start going wrong - and next to impossible to fix.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/24xwe5s>

COUNTERTHINK "FISHING FOR GM SALMON"

