

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 CMS-1500 Form

We have added support for the new 02-12 version of the CMS-1500 paper claim form that will be **required for use beginning April 1, 2014**. The transition period started on January 6 during which both the old (08/05) and new (02/12) versions are being accepted.

We don't anticipate any significant problems, but unfortunately major industry changes like this are rarely without hiccups due to the differing ways that companies implement things. **We recommend that you begin using the new form in February** to allow for some time to correct any issues that arise while you're still allowed to send claims with

12 diagnoses on the patient's Diagnosis tab. There should no longer be any need for diagnoses to be put in the Documentation (box 19) field.

ICD-10 Support

We have also added support for the use of ICD-10 codes. We **DO NOT RECOMMEND** using ICD-10 codes in any way just yet, except under the following conditions:

1. You have confirmed that the patient's carrier is accepting ICD-10 codes before the October 1, 2014 mandate date.
2. You want to participate in some sort of ICD-10 testing event. For example, you can register with Medicare for their planned "testing

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| FIRST FI ↓ | 21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. Relate A-L to service line below (24E) ICD Ind. | | | |
| | A. _____ | B. _____ | C. _____ | D. _____ |
| | E. _____ | F. _____ | G. _____ | H. _____ |
| | I. _____ | J. _____ | K. _____ | L. _____ |
| | 24 A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE | B. I. C. | D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES | E. |

the old forms.

The new form is very similar to the old form. The most significant change is that up to 12 diagnoses can now be directly specified in box 21, and they are now labeled A-L (which affects the diagnosis pointers in box 24e). There is also an indicator for ICD-9 or ICD-10, making the new form fully capable of handling ICD-10 codes.

To enable the new form in Stellar, go to Tools, Configuration Options, Insurance Billing and Appointment Options, and check the "Use Version 02-12 Claim Form" checkbox in the middle of the bottom section.

Once the new form is enabled you will be able to directly enter up to

week" from March 3rd thru 7th.

To actually use ICD-10 on a patient, simply check the "ICD-10" checkbox on the patient's Diagnoses tab. Stellar will attempt to convert any current ICD-9 codes to ICD-10 using the built-in General Equivalence Mapping (GEM) table. Once in ICD-10 mode, you can also enter an ICD-9 code and Stellar will attempt to match it to an equivalent ICD-10 code for you.

Please note that this setting is per-patient. If you change one patient to ICD-10 it will not affect the others. It is expected that once you are ready to begin using ICD-10 that you will simply issue a new current diagnosis for active patients using ICD-10.

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.)

Configuration, Treatments, Misc Reports

Allow use of up to 9 custom treatment types.

Transaction Summary

Redesigned Transaction Summary to be more concise while containing more information.

Multi-Column Appointments

Allow to edit provider without re-creating appointment.

Demographics

Added service amount totals for referrals.

Find Waiting/Pending

Added option to filter by provider.

Search History

Added comment search filter.

Various Programs

Improved tracking of transaction posting.

Payments & Corrections

Corrected problem with provider number on automatic insurance discounts.

Texas Medical Association Denied

Texas diagnosis ruling: the "fat lady" has finally sung.

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by James Edwards, DC

As detailed in past columns, Texas chiropractic has been under full frontal attack by the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and the Texas Medical Board with regard to diagnosis and chiropractic scope of practice. In defense of our patients and the chiropractic profession, Texas doctors of chiropractic have fought back valiantly.

Members of the Texas Chiropractic Association (TCA) have contributed many tens of thousands of dollars to legally oppose political medicine's attempt to limit our scope of practice and strip us of our authority to diagnose.

That unwavering commitment has paid off, because the "fat lady sang" on June 14, 2013, when the Texas Supreme Court denied the petition of the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Medical Board for additional review of their lawsuit against Texas Board of Chiropractic

Examiners and the TCA. While there may be additional review by the lower trial court and the TMA may file for a rehearing, unless the earth moves, this issue is finally over.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/m3n5u3m>

Traditional Diets, Modern Misunderstandings

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Marlene Merritt, DOM, LAc, ACN

One of the biggest mistakes I see in nutrition is that we look at life in these narrow "slices" of time, and think this is how things always have been. We might think that nutritionally, we're a little worse than a while ago (or not), but we don't have any perspective or context to help us see exactly how different things are now.

After all, we think to ourselves, how different could cheese be? Or meat? Or bread? Or vegetables? We simply don't remember what people ate before cereal or sandwiches came into the picture.

Let's take, for example, the current fad of eating low fat. At no point in human history had we ever eaten low-fat until the past 30-40 years, when research linked hydrogenated fats and trans fats to heart disease. While those man-made fats absolutely contribute to heart disease, there has never been a study that linked butter or lard to plaques or any other cardiovascular problem. Yet without solid research on which to justify this change, the national recommendation then became to avoid all fats. We then invented fat-free yogurt with more sugar in it than even a candy bar, but with all the "wholesome goodness" that yogurt seems to imply.

Did you know that back in the 1940s, the inexpensive cut of meat was the lean piece? That when you wanted a rich, mouth-watering steak, it was the fat you looked for? If you couldn't afford the good cut with the fat, you could buy inexpensive pork belly and, using a larding needle, sew strips of it to the lean meat to give it flavor. Check out cookbooks from the 1930s and you'll see what I mean.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/my9jsuv>

Backups!

Are you doing them? Don't be caught without a backup if your main computer gives up the ghost. Because it will, and it may not give you any warning... Last week one of our users' computer suddenly refused to turn on. Their backup was a few days old, but we were able to get them up and running within a short amount of time.