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Stellar Software

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New and Improved Documentation Software Interface

We recently added a new interface for documentation software Chiro QuickCharts (www.quick-charts.com) to Stellar Office. This interface supports bi-directional data transfer, exporting patients to Chiro QuickCharts to minimize double-entry, and importing treatment codes back to aid in posting.

Stellar has also had an export-only interface to the DocumentPlus documentation software (www.docplus.net) for some time, and this has been improved as well to allow importing of treatment codes.

If you are currently using either of these systems for documentation, give us a call and we can help you set up the interface to them. If you are interested in an electronic documentation system providing more extensive capabilities than Stellar provides, these are two systems you might consider. And if you are currently using or considering a different documentation system, let us know and we may be able to work out an interface with them as well.

NJ State orders Horizon to pay chiropractors' claims

From pressofatlanticcity.com

The Association of New Jersey Chiropractors said Monday that the state Department of Banking & Insurance has ruled the state's largest health insurer must end its

practice of not paying the separate claims of chiropractors for patient exams and physical therapies.

The association said Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield had been bundling the claims into reimbursements for general chiropractic treatment, subjecting them to the limits of single claims and effectively denying them.

DOBI Commissioner Neil N. Jasey issued a cease and desist order Oct. 7, directing Horizon to treat chiropractors' claims the same way as other health care provider claims. "The fact that in other disciplines, comparable services are billed separately and compensated separately is probative (i.e., proof) on the question of whether Horizon's blanket policy of including multiple services performed by a licensed chiropractor in a single visit in one 'global fee' for (chiropractic manipulative treatment) services is appropriate," Jasey wrote in his order.

Horizon had been denying the claims for exams and physical therapies since 1997, when it switched its claim codes, according to Jeffrey Randolph, the lead attorney for the Association of N.J. Chiropractors.

Read the rest at:
<http://tinyurl.com/ycc24d6>

Keep in Contact with your Legislators

One of our users highly suggests keeping in contact with your Federal legislators during the Christmas break to make sure they get a DC point of view on the

Healthcare bills, and also on considerations of revoking the exemption from anti-trust laws that the insurance companies currently enjoy.

Right to Diagnose Challenged in Texas

The Texas Medical Association has challenged the right of Texas chiropractors to diagnose (in addition to seeking to disallow Manipulation Under Anesthesia and Needle EMG by chiropractors), saying that only medical doctors have the right to diagnose patients. Litigation is ongoing, with the next trial date (regarding constitutional claims) scheduled for January 19th, 2010, but the outcome has the potential to eventually affect other states beyond Texas.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/yajr3ca>

House Passes Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act

From dotmed.com

The U.S. House of Representatives have passed H.R. 3961--the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009. H.R. 3961 repeals the current Medicare physician payment formula--the sustainable growth rate (SGR)-- and replaces it with a new framework. The vote was 243-183. The majority were Democrats although Michael Burgess, MD, (R-TX), was the sole Republican to vote for passage.

Under H.R. 3961, the SGR would be replaced with a new formula in which only physician services, and not other services provided incidentally to a physician visit (such as laboratory services or drugs), would be counted in each category; the update for 2010 would be the percentage increase in the Medicare economic index (MEI), which is 1.2 percent; and the new SGR formula would take into account spending for each category of service since 2009 or, beginning in 2014, for the previous five years.

Beginning in 2011, there would be separate target growth rates and conversion factor updates for two categories of service: evaluation, management, and preventive services (services to grow at GDP plus 2% per year), and all other services (to grow at the rate of GDP plus 1% per year). In addition, the legislation allows Accountable Care Organizations (groups of physicians and possibly hospitals responsible for quality and overall annual Medicare spending for their patients) to have their own expenditure

targets and updates for such practitioners, aside from reductions or increases applying elsewhere.

Read the rest at:

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/10802>

Missouri Milk Madness

From NaturalNews.com, by Mike Adams

Imagine being watched by two undercover cops as you engage in an illicit deal in a deserted parking lot. The buyer hesitantly hands you some cash. You flash a look over your shoulder, just to make sure the coast is clear, then you hand over the contraband. Neither of you says a word. You just nod, acknowledging the deal is done, then you head back to your car and buckle up for the drive home.

But before you can even put the car into drive, a screeching formation of police cars, surrounds you, sirens wailing. Armed officers leap from their vehicles, guns drawn and sunglasses glaring. "Come out with your hands up!" they shout.

...

The above description is a dramatization of real events that happened recently in Springfield, Missouri, where the state has decided to spend considerable taxpayer resources running a sting operating against a family that was caught dealing -- gulp! -- **raw milk in a parking lot.**

Read the rest at:

http://www.naturalnews.com/027675_raw_milk_Missouri.html

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):

Patient Billing, Posting, Patients

Cash/Misc. Discount is now called Time of Service (T.O.S.) Discount.

Appointment Listing

Added support for color printers; lines now print in color by type.

Added Names Only option to create a more secure list.

Account Aging and Late Charging

Can now view report.

Accounts Receivable Totals

Can show estimated pat/ins parts, and limit to certain patient types.