

STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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Stellar Software

Our Staff...

Josiah Reynolds
Terry Kelley
Lori Tauer



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

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):

Posting, Daily/Monthly/Yearly Summaries

Increased speed when using a client computer.

Multi-Column Appointments

Can now copy and paste appointments using Ctrl-C and Ctrl-V.

Special Bill

Now saves a comment (viewable in Transaction History) when "Mark Patient as Billed" is checked.

Changes to Stellar Billing Policy

We have made some changes to our billing policy which go into effect as of January 1, 2011. Our new billing policy is as follows:

- Lease/Support fees are billed in advance of the covered period (month or year). There is a 20% standard discount on annual support.
- Accounts are considered delinquent if the balance is not paid in full by the stated due date.
- Support services will be discontinued if an account is more than 3 months overdue.
- Re-activation of discontinued services will require payment of overdue balance and a new annual support contract.

Medicare Fee Cuts Delayed Another Year

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Editorial Staff

Yes, it's that time of year again: time for Congress to step in at the 11th hour and stave off the latest round of Medicare fee cuts.

And that's exactly what happened last month, with the House and Senate passing legislation that prevents a massive 25 percent cut in physician reimbursement rates from taking effect as scheduled and preserves a 2.2 fee increase through 2011.

The Senate passed the bipartisan bill, the Medicaid and Medicare Extenders Act of 2010 (H.R. 4994) on Dec. 8; the House followed suit a day later. This was the fifth time congressional action was needed to stop rate cuts from taking effect in 2010; as recently as Nov. 30, President Obama signed the Physician Payment and Therapy Relief Act of 2010, which delayed the scheduled cut to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule until Jan. 1, 2011. Scheduled 2010 fee cuts were also delayed until March 1, June 1 and then Dec. 1 with congressional action; legislation that delayed the cut until Dec. 1., 2010, increased existing fee rates by 2.2 percent; this increase remains in effect through 2011.

Read the rest at:
<http://tinyurl.com/28czda8>

Monsanto's Superweeds Come Home to Roost

From GenerationGreen.com

There's been much recent news about Monsanto paying farmers to use its competitors' herbicides, in what many see as a last ditch effort to address the spread of superweeds created by the company's "Roundup Ready" (RR) GMO crops.

Environmental scientists warned even before Monsanto's "herbicide tolerant" GMO crops were approved that they would hasten the evolution of resistant weeds. For these scientists, the issue was obvious: introduction of high doses of a single chemical year after year would result in the exact conditions needed to breed resistance: weeds with resistance genes would be the only weeds that could survive and breed, leading to superweeds that are unaffected even by massive herbicide spraying.

Of course, Monsanto denied these early warnings. In a 1997 paper, Monsanto scientists claimed that weed resistance was such a complex genetic phenomena that RR crops would be unlikely to lead to resistant weeds. What's even more troubling, though, is that Monsanto continued to ignore the spread of superweeds for years, and worked to persuade and threaten farmers against strategies to avoid resistance – since those strategies would have cut into the company's sales of Roundup and RR crops.

Read the rest at:
<http://generationgreen.org/?p=2285>

Sunscreen chemicals absorbed into body, found in 85 percent of human milk samples

From NaturalNews.com, by S. L. Baker

(NaturalNews) Before you apply creams, lotions, cosmetics and sunscreens to your skin, it might be a good idea to find out what's really in them. What's more, you need to know those ingredients aren't necessarily just coating the outside layers of your skin. For example, as NaturalNews previously reported, UCLA scientists have recently discovered nanoparticles in cosmetics and sunscreens can enter and wander throughout the body, potentially disrupting body functions on a sub-cellular level. And now, for the first time, a study just published in the international science journal *Chemosphere* has shown that a group of chemicals known as UV (for ultraviolet radiation) filters are turning up in humans internally -- and the phenomenon is widespread.

In fact, the investigation, conducted by a Swiss

National Research Program called Endocrine Disruptors: Relevance to Humans, Animals and Ecosystems, found UV filters, which are common in cosmetics and sunscreens, were present in 85 percent of human milk samples tested. What does this mean for adults, much less babies taking in this contaminated milk? The alarming truth is, no one knows.

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

Hiking inflation won't help, Ben

From MSN Money, by Anthony Mirhaydari

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is a man on a mission.

He spent years studying the Great Depression and Japan's deflationary malaise. The lessons learned served him well in 2008 as he helped pull the economy and financial system back from the brink. The solution was simple: Print more money to lower interest rates. And, if needed, drop it from helicopters.

So as the depth of the Great Recession became clear, "Helicopter Ben" swung into action. He pushed short-term interest rates to near zero in late 2008 and has kept them there. That wasn't enough. So over the past year, Bernanke's Fed bought more than \$1.7 trillion worth of long-term debt, which has the effect of pumping money into the economy. The monetary base more than doubled.

As a result, the financial system was able to recapitalize, consumers were able to refinance and cut their debts, and the economy started to grow again.

Now, with unemployment stuck near 10%, inflation hovering near 1% and Washington gridlock virtually guaranteed after November GOP gains, the Fed has announced its intention to purchase an additional \$600 billion worth of Treasury bonds -- a strategy dubbed "quantitative easing" or "large-scale asset purchases," depending on whom you ask. Call the actions QE2 or LSAPs, the result is the same: An impatient Fed is trying to boost the economy by creating inflation and encouraging people to borrow more money.

But that's a recipe for disaster. It risks undermining the economy and sets the stage for a massive credit-fueled asset bubble that makes the housing downturn look like child's play.

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