

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!

Address Change

Our mailing address is changing to **PO Box 635, Harrison, AR 72602-0635**. Please update your records, and if you are using bill-pay or some other payment service instead of our return envelope, please make appropriate changes with your bank so that your check will be sent to the right place. Thank you!

New Interface with ChiroWrite Documentation Software

We've just added a new interface for the ChiroWrite documentation system (www.softworxsolutions.com) to Stellar Office. This interface supports bi-directional data transfer, exporting patients to ChiroWrite to minimize double-entry, and importing treatment codes back to aid in posting.

If you are currently using ChiroWrite 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, check them out! They are in the process of becoming EHR certified and anticipate certification in the near future.

Stellar Updates

Some 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):

Patients

Can now set memos for service dates.

Find Waiting/Pending, Insurance Aging

Unresolved service date memos are now listed.

ChiroWrite Interface

Added bi-directional interface support for ChiroWrite documentation system (www.softworxsolutions.com).

Daily Summary

Remaining inventory and reorder flag are now shown.

Now lists email address for missed and cancelled appointments.

Configuration, Patients, Carriers

Added Cash Practice option which causes 'Accept Assignment' in Carriers and 'Benefits Assigned to Clinic' in Patients to default to No when adding a new record.

Payments & Corrections

Insurance Discount now auto-populates treatment date with last paid service date.

Fixed a possible patient part error when back-posting.

Paper Claims Submit

Made a correction where Secondary claims weren't being picked up when running new Paper Claims if the primary carrier was electronic, even if 'Print with Primary' was checked.

Hearing Confirms ObamaCare Increases Costs, Uncertainty for Employers

From edworkforce.house.gov

WASHINGTON, D.C. | March 10, 2011 - Today, the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing to investigate the rising cost of employer-provided health care and its impact on workers. Members of the subcommittee heard testimony that described a number of factors contributing to the growing expense, including the Democrats' recent government takeover of health care.

Rep. Phil Roe, M.D. (R-TN), chairman of the Subcommittee, said, "For many patients, the price of health care is the determining factor when deciding whether to receive the care he or she needs. It also imposes a tremendous burden on taxpayers, as government health services become more and more expensive." Roe added, "Employers, however, understand better than most the tough choices workers and their families face as health care costs go up year after year."

Brett Parker, a finance officer for a small business in New York City, noted that ObamaCare has failed to "rein in costs, and instead increased them, while loading job creators with mandates, regulations, new taxes and burdens. Rather than solve the problems in the health care system, PPACA ignores costs and instead redistributes money from producers in order to fund vast new entitlements and expand old ones – this was not an improvement over the status quo, it was a step backwards."

Referring to the health care law, Parker stated, "Every year we pay more and get less, and under the new law it appears that this process could get even worse." Parker continued, "The absurdity of the new 1099 reporting mandate, or the anxiety, complexity, disorder, uncertainty and overall peril the new health care law and its array of mandates imposes, we feel like the Federal government time and again creates obstacles to success and, by doing so, increasing the likelihood of failure."

The failure of small businesses would be detrimental to unemployed workers and the economy. Business owners must now consider a number of tough choices as they try to remain in compliance with the law, and those choices will become more difficult as future mandates and regulations go into effect.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/3pl7nrs>

Health Insurers Making Record Profits as Many Postpone Care

From The New York Times, by Reed Abelson

The nation's major health insurers are barreling into a third year of record profits, enriched in recent months by a lingering recessionary mindset among Americans who are postponing or forgoing medical care.

The UnitedHealth Group, one of the largest commercial insurers, told analysts that so far this year, insured hospital stays actually decreased in some instances. In reporting its earnings last week, Cigna, another insurer, talked about the "low level" of medical use.

Yet the companies continue to press for higher premiums, even though their reserve coffers are flush with profits and shareholders have been rewarded with new dividends. Many defend proposed double-digit increases in the rates they charge, citing a need for protection against any sudden uptick in demand once people have more money to spend on their health, as well as the rising price of care.

Even with a halting economic recovery, doctors and others say many people are still extremely budget-conscious, signaling the possibility of a fundamental change in Americans' appetite for health care.

"I am noticing my patients with insurance are more interested in costs," said Dr. Jim King, a family practice physician in rural Tennessee. "Gas prices are going up, food prices are going up. They are deciding to put some of their health care off." A patient might decide not to drive the 50 miles necessary to see a specialist because of the cost of gas, he said.

But Dr. King said patients were also being more thoughtful about their needs. Fewer are asking for an MRI as soon as they have a bad headache. "People are realizing that this is my money, even if I'm not writing a check," he said.

For someone like Shannon Hardin of California, whose hours at a grocery store have been erratic, there is simply no spare cash to see the doctor when she isn't feeling well or to get the \$350 dental crowns she has been putting off since last year. Even with insurance, she said, "I can't afford to use it." Delaying care could keep utilization rates for insurers low through the rest of the year, according to Charles Boorady, an analyst for Credit Suisse. "The big question is whether it is going to stay weak or bounce back," he said. "Nobody knows."

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/3bzumzx>