

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!

We're moving!

Okay, not exactly. 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!

G8644, Chiropractic and e-Prescribing

As part of Medicare's Electronic Prescribing (eRx) incentive program, beginning in 2012 Medicare will begin reducing payments to eligible professionals that are not successful electronic prescribers by 1% in 2012, 1.5% in 2013, and 2% in 2014, whether or not the eligible professional is planning to participate in the eRx Incentive Program.

What does this have to do with chiropractic? Well, non-eligible professionals are determined as such based on the primary taxonomy code in the NPPES database (look yours up using your NPI at: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do>), or by reporting code G8644 ("Does not have prescribing privileges") at least one time on an eligible claim prior to June 30, 2011.

If your taxonomy code is listed in NPPES as 111N00000X (or some sub-specialty of chiropractic) you should be okay. But to be on the safe side, it may be best to submit code G8644 at least once and make sure it goes through to Medicare before June 30, to

ensure that their system knows that you do not have prescribing privileges, and hopefully eliminate any chance of being penalized for something that doesn't apply to you.

To do this, simply add a new treatment to Stellar using *Records/Treatments*, click *Add New*, and specify a CPT code of **G8644**, treatment group **OT-Other**, **\$0.00** charge, and make sure **Submit to Insurance** is checked. I suggest "Does not have prescribing privileges" or similar as the description.

Then post this treatment on at least one Medicare patient, submit it, and make sure the claim goes through (of course). The EOB may report code N365 which reads "This procedure code is not payable. It is for reporting/information purposes only."

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):

Insurance Aging

Improved handling of claims submitted prior to a patient's insurance changing.

Combined Insurance Aging (Single Carrier) with Insurance Aging (All Carriers).

Multi-Column Appointments

Added next appt, messages and phone numbers to info panel.

Increased speed when using a client computer.

Added Office phone number field

when adding a New Patient.

Various Programs

Added Compressed-Print option to get more characters on a label.

Posting

Added "Once" option to print a walkout statement just one time.

Health Care Providers Exempt From Red Flags

Congress passes legislation clarifying definition of "creditor."

From DynamicChiropractic.com, By Peter W. Crownfield, Executive Editor

After delaying enforcement of the Red Flags rule for more than two years while debating which entities should be covered under the rule and thus required to develop and implement identity theft protection protocols, Congress has passed legislation that clarifies the definition of "creditor" in the rule's language.

In so doing, doctors of chiropractic and other health care providers are now effectively exempt from complying with the rule. The Red Flag Clarification Act of 2010 (S.3987) passed the Senate on Nov. 30, 2010 and the House of Representatives followed suit on Dec. 7, three weeks before the Jan. 1, 2011 deadline for enforcement of the rule. President Obama signed the legislation into law on Dec. 18, 2010.

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While few will argue that protecting customers from identity theft is important, who should bear the responsibility for that protection is another issue altogether. Concerns were raised after the rule was announced that, among other considerations, credit-card companies / banks are the true creditors, not the business / practice that accepts credit as payment for services rendered.

The Red Flag Clarification Act of 2010 appears to exempt not just health care providers, but also other entities previously required to comply with the rule who now meet the exemption criteria as defined in the amended text. Nearly 30 organizations supported passage of the legislation including the ACA, the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/4rnccxa>

UK Finally Makes Smart Decision to Protect Children... Why Doesn't the US?

From Mercola.com, by Dr. Mercola

UK children under 5 will not be receiving the flu shot this season, thanks to a ruling by UK ministers and senior government advisers.

After canceling the immunization program for children aged 6 months to 5 years in 2010, they have decided to continue on with the no-flu-shot plan for this age group, citing that vaccination would not have any significant gains.

This was a wise government decision because flu shots are typically ineffective and can be risky for many people, including children, the elderly and virtually every age group in between.

U.S. Still Recommends Flu Shots for Kids, Despite Serious Red Flags

Physicians in America have been insisting that every child age 6 months to 18 years get an annual flu shot for several years now, but health officials have now ramped up those recommendations, telling EVERY person over the age of 6 months get a flu shot EVERY year, healthy or not, low risk or high.

What will receiving a flu shot every year every year of your life do to your immune system?

With all of those vaccinations, will you be more susceptible to influenza-related complications and death? Will children, who are already subjected to 48 doses of 14 vaccines from day of birth through age six, be at added risk for developing chronic health problems from being given a flu shot every year throughout elementary, junior high and high school?

We really don't know.

Health officials have leapt ahead with recommendations of "flu shots for all" without safety studies -- so by getting a flu shot, you are effectively offering yourself, or your child, up as a laboratory rat. In other words, YOU are the safety study!

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Flu shots are also heavily recommended to pregnant women, even though, as the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) reports:

"Influenza vaccines are Category C drugs, which means that animal reproduction studies have not been conducted and it is not known whether these vaccines can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or if they can affect reproduction capacity."

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/4tfdlrj>