

STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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Stellar Updates

Recent changes and updates to Stellar:

Electronic Claims

We now allow carrier tax number to override tax number like paper claims does.

Up to six extra diagnoses from documentation (box 19) are now all picked up with a variety of punctuation.

Paper Claims

Taxonomy code now allowed. Just put 111N00000X (the taxonomy code) in place of PIN and UPIN as needed. Stellar will recognize it and use the required qualifiers.

Patients Quick Notes

Improved end-of-line wrap and the warning to save changed text.

Carriers

Added new Carrier Type 'OT-Other Federal' for Michigan.

Patient Questionnaire

In medical care, the Patient Questionnaire has the purpose of protecting the patient from being harmed by the provider by procedures that are contra-indicated, and to inform the provider of related previous conditions. This list has been shared by one of our providers who is concerned that popular questionnaires are often inadequate and may expose you to unnecessary risk.

1. Have you had an orthopedic / neurological surgery? No Yes

If yes, when, and what procedure?

2. Have you ever had a fracture? No Yes If yes, what area and how was it treated?
3. Do you have a pacemaker or defibrillator? No, Yes
4. Do you have rods, screws, pins, or plates, or any other medically implanted devices in your body? No, Yes. If yes, where? When?
5. Have you ever suffered a heart attack or stroke? No, Yes.
6. Do you have osteoporosis? No, Yes.
7. Are you on blood thinner medication? No, Yes.
8. List all physical therapy / physical medical procedures you have had: Procedure Date
9. List bad results from any of the above procedures:
10. List good results from any of the above procedures:
11. Has a health care provider ever advised you against a procedure? No, Yes. If yes, please explain:
12. Do you have diagnosed degeneration of bony tissues? No, Yes.
13. Please list all current medications:
14. Have you ever had an x-ray, CT, or MRI? No, Yes. If yes, for what reason?
15. Was lab work done? No, Yes. If yes, were the results normal or abnormal? List abnormal findings:
16. Do you have any spinal abnormalities? No, Yes. If yes, circle one: Curvature, Fracture,

Scoliosis, Defect.

17. Have you, or have you had a medical condition you would like to discuss with the doctor?

17. Have you, or have you had nerve pain and/or numbness? How long, when, where?

Future of Chiropractic

"The reason people find it so hard to be happy is that they are not grateful for what they have"

-- Don Tauer

The economics of chiropractic services in the U.S. will be increasingly impacted by the emergence of a doctoral-level physical therapy profession. Doctors of physical therapy (DPTs) now enjoy portal-of-entry status in more than three dozen of our 50 states. Many insurance companies will not reimburse doctors or patients for the use of certain chiropractic techniques. To make matters worse, the insurance and patient network companies say that if you use any of these procedures, you are violating the Scope of Practice of Chiropractic and you will not be allowed to participate in their company's network of chiropractic practitioners. It is also a fact that in some cases these companies will report practitioners using these "experimental" techniques to the chiropractor's state boards for possible disciplinary action. In many instances, the types of procedures called experimental by the insurance companies and the reasons given for characterizing them as experimental track directly or are explicitly drawn from articles published on the Quackwatch website. You can see the importance of these legal actions. Now that DCs are included in Medicare's definition of 'provider', it is *time to get equal treatment under the law* also!
<http://tinyurl.com/yp638w>

New Medicare ABN Rules

Beginning March 3, 2008, Medicare no longer requires you to bill chiropractic Maintenance Care. The patient may still ask you to do so, or may simply pay you for the services.

The new ABN rules from CMS apply to both Participating and NON-Participating doctors. The ABN form has been revised, with a new title, "Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage." The use of this new ABN form becomes mandatory on September 1 2008. You can start now if you know the rules, have the new ABN form, and implement it properly.

For the form and instructions, go to:
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/02_ABNGABNL.asp

Chirocode has an ABN form customized for chiropractic. It is in .pdf format and allows you to

add your clinic name and insert the services in question for the encounter. chirocode.com

VAD

Vertebral artery dissection (VAD) associated with chirotherapy of the neck may be largely due to manipulations by orthopedic surgeons and other medical care personnel with little training in Spinal Manipulation Therapy (SMT). These reports tend to be the focus of anti-chiropractic efforts by the likes of Quack Watch who blame the problem entirely on chiropractors. Never mind that spinal and other articular adjustments, manipulations and therapies are among the safest of all health care interventions.

<http://tinyurl.com/3sbpdg>

Backups

Why do you keep your money in the bank? Why are your will and stock certificates in a safe or bank vault? Simple: You are doing your best to safeguard valuables for which there is no replacement. Nothing can replace them!

Nothing can replace your clinic data files either. You should copy and protect it at a level commensurate with its value. It is easy and inexpensive to do so. A few writable CDs or a couple Flash Drives and one minute a day is all it takes.

When your computer crashes, you will be glad you have a backup to transfer to the new one.

Humor

