

Dear MOASC Members:

The MOASC office arranged a teleconference April 23, 2007 with Melanie Combs, CMS Director of the RAC Recovery Unit, also present was Dr. Berman, Medical Director for PRG Schultz; MOASC Chairman, Cary A. Presant, M.D.; MOASC member, Marilou Terpenning M.D.; MOASC Executive Director, Mariana Lamb and Pat Tyler.

The discussion addressed the negative impact on the practices in Southern California, specifically:

- 1) Take back of monies on an RA and follow up letter requesting refund check on same patient, same date of service and same service item.

Dr. Berman will investigate the timing of refund notice letters and NHIC taking money from RA's. Any duplicate payments to CMS will be refunded.

- 2) Time lag between requests for records of various dates of service, on the same patient, once initial review is accomplished and cleared.

Dr. Berman will investigate the ability of PRG Schultz to consolidate service dates of one patient into one request form.

- 3) The age of dates of service records requested, and the expected turn around time.

Physicians are required, by law, to maintain patient records for a minimum of seven (7) years. CMS is allowed to go back four (4) years from date of payment to audit. CMS will consider looking into changing the audit date to more recent dates of service. Dr. Berman suggested physicians call PRG Schultz for an extension if having problems finding patient chart. (CMS) are allowed to go back 4 years from date of payment. CMS is looking into changing the audit date to more recent venue. If the physician is unable to find the chart, the physician will have to pay.

- 4) No patient name on audit request just HIC#.

This will change so patient name appears on correspondence.

- 5) If it is discovered, through the audit, that an incorrect date of service is billed, CMS will not consider this an error if the correct date of service is 24 hours or less from the billed date.

Please let me know if you have experienced any of the above or other problems, with CMS/PRG Schultz audits. If you have already communicated with me, there is no need for further information, I have already compiled and presented your information.

Thank you,
Pat Tyler
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California