

MAF Minutes

June 14, 2005

NHIC Educational Outreach

Recent activities from provider educational outreach has been the successful completion of Ask the Contractor Teleconference hosted by Southern California where the topic was the Appeals process. This was one of the largest participated ACTs for us thus far with over 82 participants. Based on the responses, we see there is a need for additional information on the Appeals process and as such we are scheduling a Webinar on the subject. The date will be posted on the website.

National Provider Identifier

On June 13th Michele Kelly communicated via email to many of our organized medicine providers the following announcement:

Medicare has the following announcements on plans for transitioning to the National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the Fee-for Service Medicare Program:

- Between May 23, 2005 and January 2, 2006 our claims processing systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number and reject as unprocessable any claim that includes only an NPI .
- Beginning January 3, 2006, and through October 1, 2006, our systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number **or** an NPI as long as it is accompanied by an existing legacy Medicare number.
- Beginning October 2, 2006, and through May 22, 2007 our systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number **and/or** an NPI. This will allow for 6-7 months of provider testing before only an NPI will be accepted by the Medicare Program on May 23, 2007.
- Beginning May 23, 2007 our systems will **only** accept an NPI .

CMS also has a NPI tool which will address several of the typical questions that may arise concerning how to obtain numbers, who do I contact, etc. We strongly encourage all members to visit

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/npi/npiviewlet.asp> - Information on NPIs can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/regulations/identifiers/default.asp>, by calling the HIPAA Hotline: 1-866-282-0659

Prescription Drug Program

CMS has available for use in physicians' offices information, brochures and

posters, regarding the Medicare Part D program. Please visit CMS website to order.

Small Providers Campaign

We are still asking for your assistance to identify the needs of this provider group to increase our outreach.

Ask the Contractor Teleconference

The next ACT is scheduled for June 24th at 10am. The topic of discussion Billing Tips.

Website Enhancements

We have made enhancements to our website. You can now receive Seminar, ACT and Webinar updates and schedule of events directly from our website.

Ad Hoc Discussion

The next meeting of the Medicare Advisory Forum will take place on September 13, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

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