

MEDICARE ADVISORY FORUM

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2004

Attendees from NHIC:

Kimberly Rowe, Michele Kelly, Stacy Lowe, Sergio Escobedo, Janet MacLennan, Lowell Huddleston.

Organization Attendees by Teleconference:

Anna Duhay (CMS), Sheila Kopic (UCLA), Catalina Isaacs (LACMA), Pat Tyler, (MOASC), Jose Gonzalez, (ONCO), Charmie Chirgwin, RN. (Biogen Idec), Jeff Homan, (Medi-soft).

Introduction of Attendees

EDI Update:

72 % of all EMC submitters are in the ANSI format, of which 35% - 40% are clearing houses.

HIPAA Transactions status:

- ◆ Eligibility Inquiry Transactions 270/271 Still pending. CMS is working with the IVAN's system to finalize.
- ◆ Claim Status Transactions 276/277 Presently we can receive transactions only through the 276 transaction.

Additional updates will be provided at the next meeting. However, no complaints are reported from the provider community.

The LACMA representative questioned whether we have received any complaints regarding Medi-Medi crossover claims. No problems have been reported. If providers are experiencing problems with the Medi-Cal processing of their crossover claims, the inquiries should be directed to Medi-Cal

NHIC Educational Outreach

- ◆ 2004 Spring Workshop Tour Presentations begin for California March 24, 2004 and extend through May 2004. These are half-day presentations. There are a total of 30 separate locations throughout the state. Registrations will be posted on the website. We are also mailing the registrations provided that funding is available.

Tour Topics:

- ◆ General CMS/Carrier Updates
- ◆ Medical Review Billing Tips
- ◆ Website Redesign
- ◆ Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Program
- ◆ Life of a Claim

We were able to select these topics based on previous discussions with this forum along with, CMS requirements and other input. Comments received from MAF members are welcomed and

encouraged. The preliminary review of the topics and information that we are incorporating into this tour indicates that this is going to be one of our better programs.

Issues

- ◆ 2004 Fee Schedule: The revised fee schedules will not be republished for mailing but are posted to our website. Reminder that while the fee schedules loaded on the CD's are no longer effective, do not destroy the CD. The manuals included on the CD are good sources of information and are still valid.
- ◆ A reminder of drug reimbursement for 2004: Medicare reimbursement will be 85% of the Average Wholesale Price that was in effect 4/1/03 for most drugs.. No quarterly updates will be made in 2004. The Change Request from CMS that addresses this can be found on the CMS website.

Claim Related Issues

- ◆ Denials of CBC's for medical necessity documentation are continuing as reported from the Oncology community. The association is still awaiting response from CMS regarding this matter. Until we receive different instructions, if claims are denied for medical necessity it is suggested that you exercise the appeal process.
- ◆ The mass adjustments for the previous denials of Lupron were completed at the end of December 2003.

Michele indicated that educational outreach efforts for billing this year would be focused in three primary categories:

- ◆ Avoid appeals and rework of unnecessary medical necessity denials by providing reminders of Local Medical Review Policies and National Coverage Determinations.
- ◆ Reducing the number of duplicate billings/denial claims; and
- ◆ New billing requirements for item 32 of the CMS claim form

Other Issues

Comments were received regarding the website; the new design is more user friendly and easier to navigate. The CPT agreement when accepted does not take you back to the home page; and the search engine doesn't work well.

- ◆ We will investigate the reasons why the CPT agreement is not working.
- ◆ We are aware that the search engine requires attention, however it was not included in the work involved for the redesign. It is on our "To Do List" for EDS.

Planning Suggestions

To better plan MAF activities, meeting dates have been scheduled. Please plans on these dates:

March 16, 2004

June 15, 2004

September 14, 2004

Meeting reminder announcements will continue, along with the agenda.