

Meeting Minutes from Quarterly Provider Communications (PCOM) Advisory Group Meetings

ALBANY

Attendees: Members: Carol Anne Conti, Beth Karis, Therese Kundel, Jeanne Rizzo, Jonathan Dougherty, Amanda Price, Susan Coates, Paul Rice (Guest)

Absent: Members: Debbie Sturtevant, Michael Lewensohn, Andrea Stella,

Facilitator: Sharon Lovejoy

Scribe: Janice Hall

Date and Time: June 3, 2003, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Place: HealthNow offices in Latham, NY

SYRACUSE

Attendees: Members: Deb Gregoire, Kim Lagonegro, Cynthia Lowe, Beth Sassano, Christopher Tirabassi, Elaine Guppy, Teresa Halliday, Nancy Hinchcliffe, Laura Pascucci, Linda Smith, Terry Hensel

Absent: Members: David Frey, Sandra Wolf

Facilitator: Sharon Lovejoy

Scribe: Janice Hall

Date and Time: June 5, 2003, 1:30 to 3:30

Place: Foster's Restaurant, Liverpool, NY

BATAVIA

Attendees: Members: Sharyn Butwid, Susan Cracchiola, Linda Englebrecht, Joseph Ianniello, Liz Maas, Barbara Love, Fred Holderle

Absent: Members: Nancy Adams, Jeff Dann, Pam Falletti, Pat Lydele, Christine Nadolny, George-Ann Coccia, Betty Pettrone, Karen Telecky

Facilitator: Sharon Lovejoy

Scribe: Janice Hall

Date and Time: June 6, 2003, 1:30 – 3:30

Place: Genesee County OFA, Batavia, NY

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from March Meetings

Minutes were approved.

Meeting Highlights

1. UMD News

Electronic Media Communications (EMC) department has changed its name. The new name is Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) department. For your reference, Sharon provided copies of the current listing of HIPAA compliant vendors.

The Provider Enrollment department announces a new software system (PECOS Provider Enrollment Chain Ownership System) is to be implemented by October 2003. All carriers will use the same system across the country and it will be UPIN driven. This is a prelude to the new National Provider Identification numbers.

Q: What is the basis for this new system? *It is so everyone is using the same thing. The 855 forms are not going away. This new system will make it easier for physicians moving from area to area.*

OIG Alert – You may have heard about US Seminars and their unfriendly attempts at getting Medicare providers to attend their seminars. They misused CMS logos and other information. US Seminars now must pay back monies that they collected as a fee from their seminar participants.

2. HIPAA Updates

CMS is hosting a HIPAA workshop in Liverpool on June 12th. This is not sponsored by the Upstate Medicare Division. May include a speaker from the Office of Civil Rights. You must register on line.

Q: Do resubmitted claims have to have the original claim number? Is this at the Carriers discretion? *Claims Management reports there will be no requirement for resubmission of claims to include the original claim number on the claim (paper). EDI Management reports there is a claim type called a resubmission noted in the HIPAA Implementation guide. However, we have informed our EDI customers (through our companion document) that we consider a resubmitted claim as an initial claim. Therefore the original ICN (claim number) is not needed.*

Toll free number for Privacy Act issues or questions is (866) 627-7748.

Web site address for the Final Rule is www.aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp.

Web page on CMS site www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2.

3. Recent CMS Program Memoranda

The following documents were provided:

CR 2603 Financial Limitation of Claims for Outpatient Rehabilitation Services.

CR 2685 New Waived Tests March 21, 2003.

CR 2637 Diagnosis Code for Screening Pap and Pelvic Examination Services.

CR 2157 Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management Training and Incident To.

CR 2743 Mammography Computer Aided Detection Equipment.

4. Statistics and Data Analysis

Statistics and Data Analysis reports were distributed and reviewed. A new report providing total claims, total appeals, and general correspondence was provided.

5. FY 03 PET Outreach Activities

Sharon asked members to consider suggestions on how we can better clarify that a Basic Billing Workshop is truly basic?

Suggestion from Albany group: Add "Who Should Attend" to the course syllabus/description.

All Medicare 101 Basic Billing workshops are booked and filled at this time.

General Session seminar in Rochester is the only General Seminar currently OPEN.

Specialty topics that began in May are Critical Care and Podiatry. Seating is still available.

A CMS representative (Jim Costello or Erich Brown) will be the guest speaker at all the General Session Seminars. Topic is HIPAA, both EDI and Privacy.

We have discussed plans for FY04 outreach. May include two large Conferences. A \$150.00 registration fee could be charged to attend both days.

Rural seminars available are Watertown, Plattsburgh, and Olean. Seating is still available. Please pass the word to colleagues in these areas.

PET Specialists are available to speak at your meetings with appropriate notice. Contact Sharon.

PET Specialists Theresa Weiland and Jennifer Lorang will be speaking at the MGMA Annual Conference located in Saratoga Springs, June 26-27, 2003.

6. CMS and UMD on World Wide Web

Teleconferences will be a part of PET for FY04.

PET will continue to promote the internet again next year.

We have a new Webcasting product! We will be producing seminars, workshops, training modules, etc. on the Web. Company providing the service is Webex. Sharon will notify members of the first Webcast and ask for volunteers to test this new pilot. Product will be implemented before end of FY 2003 (September) Stay tuned!

Sign up for list serve!

7. Open Discussion

Marcia Pryce will be in attendance at the Syracuse PCOM meeting. Marcia's e-mail address is Mpryce@CMS.HHS.Gov, her phone number is 212-264-3678. Marcia has replaced our former CMS representative, Kelly Singleton.

What does PCOM stand for? *Provider Communication Advisory Group*. Reminder: The PCOM Web page is now public.

Sharon has no new information regarding July adjustments. Will share as it becomes available.

CERT Program--(Carrier Error Rate Testing) Sharon will forward questions that members have e-mailed to her, on to Sherri Dokken in the Contract Performance department.

Sherri notified Sharon that she contacted AdvanceMed regarding inclusion of more information in demand letters afford providers ease of locating documentation within the requested time constraints.

Q: Any updates on Fraud and Abuse investigations? *No, not since our Benefit Integrity Unit has been moved out of our contractor and into the Eastern BISC, we do not hear much anymore. There was a list in the June bulletin of sanctioned providers.*

We have asked that a representative from the BISC attend and speak at our September meeting. Upstate Medicare handles claims received that contain a referring provider's UPIN that is excluded or sanctioned in this way; Our system will recognize excluded/sanctioned providers UPINs and suspend the claim and send notification letters to the rendering provider as well as the patient, informing them that the referring provider has been excluded from or sanctioned by the Medicare program. This office maintains a file of those letters that have been sent for future reference. If additional claims are submitted by the same rendering provider who has been notified, the claim will deny as not payable when referred by this provider. And if that happens, the Benefit Integrity Center will be notified as well.

Q: Do we have a contact for Empire Part A? *The representative who attended the Monroe County Medical Society event with us was Annie Paterek. However, we were advised that Cheryl Boyson is the "lead professional relations representative". Cheryl can be reached at (315) 442-4737. Please, remember that your*

first point of contact should always be the general provider inquiry line number. Contact Cheryl only if another representative is unable to help you.

Q: We are hearing that fee schedule rates are temporary and will drop after January? CMS is required by law to notify the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) by March 1 of the projected update for the following year. It should be noted that this is a very preliminary estimate, which, because of its timing must be made with very little data. Nonetheless, CMS is projecting a negative update for 2004. This is because the statute requires use of a specific formula to set physician fee schedule rates each year. The formula sets rates on how expenditures compare to a target. If actual expenditures are higher than the target, the update is reduced. If actual expenditures are lower than the target, the update is increased. While the target is set using several factors, growth real per capita GDP is its most important element. Higher economic growth and lower growth in actual spending will favor physicians through a higher update. However, larger increases in expenditures in 2001 and 2002 combined with lower than anticipated economic growth will likely lead to another reduction in physician fee schedule rates in 2003.

Q: Is Medicare changing the way it prices drugs? Drug Pricing will continue to be based on 95% of the AWP (Average Wholesale Price), and we are following the national single drug pricing policy which instructs carriers to price as follows: Drugs and biologicals not paid on a cost or prospective payment basis are paid based on the lower of the billed charge or 95% of the AWP as reflected in sources such as the Red Book, Price Alert, or Medispan. Examples of drugs that are paid on this basis include but are not limited to drugs furnished incident to a physician's service, immunosuppressive drugs furnished by pharmacies, drugs furnished by pharmacies under the durable medical equipment benefit, covered oral anticancer drugs, and drugs furnished by independent dialysis facilities that are not included in the end stage renal disease composite rate payment. See Program Memorandum AB-02-075 and AB-02-174.

Q: Is Provider Enrollment discontinuing the backdating of provider enrollment effective dates? Draft says yes, but Provider Enrollment management states, no, we will continue to back date as requested. If this changes, you will be notified.

Q: There was a discussion at the Batavia meeting regarding E&M coding and Sharon mentioned a product called the E/M Calculator. Sharon also said that our medical review staff uses this tool. Members were interested in obtaining this tool.

*The product is called "CPT EM Coding Calculator" and is marketed by Myrias Resources. The vendor, Cheri Adams had a vendor table at one of our Spring Conferences years past. Cheri has a Web site: www.MxCity.com and the coding calculator can be ordered at: www.myriasresources.com/B/products.htm
KEEP IN MIND THAT UMD IS NOT ENDORSING THIS PRODUCT! Just FYI only!*

Sharon asks that you report any address changes (especially e-mail) to her so that you can remain "in the loop!"

Note that the June bulletin contains offer to return to paper bulletins for a fee (7.50/issue).

Sharon asked all members to complete a "questionnaire" to gather ideas for topics for Dr. Cox to address at your September meeting. Any who were absent, please send your suggestions to Sharon. Additionally, if you are interested in being a guest speaker at next year's conferences, please advise Sharon along with your subject expertise. This opportunity can be for the general session or a breakout session.

New Action Items

None

Next Meetings

Combined PCOM Meeting

Syracuse

Date: September 12, 2003 **Facilitator:** Sharon Lovejoy
Time: 11:30 – 3:30 **Scribe:** Janice Hall
Location: Foster's Restaurant, Liverpool

Albany

Date: December 2, 2003 **Facilitator:** Sharon Lovejoy
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 **Scribe:** Janice Hall
Location: HealthNow Offices, Latham

Syracuse

Date: December 4, 2003 **Facilitator:** Sharon Lovejoy
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 **Scribe:** Janice Hall
Location: Foster's Restaurant, Liverpool

Batavia

Date: December 5, 2003 **Facilitator:** Sharon Lovejoy
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 **Scribe:** Janice Hall
Location: Genesee County OFA, Batavia
