
NHIC Provider Outreach and Education Advisory Group

“The right message, at the right time, to the right people”

Minutes from the September 19, 2007 Meeting

Maine:

Attending: Rebecca Murray, Spectrum Medical Group; Cindy Plonowski, Maine Medical Center
Absent: Carl Faulstick, Affiliated HealthCare Systems, Inc; Jana Purell, Maine Medical Association & VT-NH Medical Society; Karen Waycott, Primary Care Physicians

Massachusetts:

Attending: Rosa Chiacchierarelli, Health Drive; William Doyle, Boston Med Flight; Willie Rosenberg, Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston, Andrea Williams, Caritas Christi Health Care System

Absent: Alexandra Calcagno, Massachusetts Medical Society; Tracy Collins, New England Physical Therapy Network; Robert DiCredico, UMass Memorial Health Center; Sarah Hartman, Mental Health & Substance

New Hampshire:

Attending: Kathie Simond, Concord Ophthalmologic

Absent: Laurie Howard, Laboratory Corporation of America

Vermont:

Attending: Jim Finger, VT Ambulance Association Christie Hewson and Janice Hall, Fletcher Allen Health Care; Karen Mitchell, Associates in Orthopedics

Absent: Gail Ransom, Rutland Regional Medical Center; Toni Mazzariello, Southwestern Vermont Health Care

NHIC:

Attending: Outreach & Education Team

Maine: Brenda Bedard, Jaienne Costa

Massachusetts: Deanna Batstone, Dr. Craig Haug, CMD

New Hampshire: Patricia Jones

Vermont: Robin Coletta, Christine Haskins

Medicare Part A

Dr. Gary Weaver

Ms. Coletta, POE AG Coordinator called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review and Approval of March minutes

June Minutes reviewed and approved. Ms. Coletta indicated that the request from Mr. DiCredico at our June meeting regarding publishing the Medical Review information & error rates would be published in the near future in our Resource and on our Website.

Membership Update

Ms. Coletta announced that Karen Mitchell from Associates in Orthopedics will be replacing Gail Warren on the Advisory Group.

NEW BUSINESS

Outreach & Education Update

September Resource & Preview

Ms. Coletta indicated that the September Resource is a wealth of information and has been posted on our website.

Fall Fair Topic

Ms. Coletta indicated that the September 12th Fall Fair in Springfield, MA was a success and that registrations are still being accepted for the October 2nd Fair in Manchester, NH. Members encouraged mentioning availability to staff. Ms. Coletta indicated that *A Day in the Life of a Claim, Introduction to Medicare, Evaluation and Management Services and Documentation, Website Navigation, EDI & NPI* chosen as topics. DME and Medicaid also represented.

Ms. Plonowski asked if Medicaid would be represented at NH Fair. Ms. Coletta indicated that NH Medicaid would be represented at the Manchester, NH Fair.

JSM 07508 Lifting the NPI Crosswalk Bypass Logic

Ms. Coletta indicated that Joint Signature Memo that should have been reflected on the Agenda emailed to members should be 07508 not 08508. Editing for validity of NPI to crosswalk. Providers encouraged to send a small sampling with just NPI. Ms. Mitchell asked if NPI and Legacy # can still be submitted and if a crosswalk can be done with that combination. Ms. Coletta explained contingency plan. Ms. Haskins indicated that on 10/22/07, editing will be turned on so if no match can be done, claim will be denied. Currently informational messages are being returned. Ms. Rosenberg asked if informational messages are continuing because she does not believe they are still receiving them. Ms. Haskins that informational messages are being sent but would change 10/22/07.

Duplicate Claims Task Force Update

Ms. Coletta indicated that stopping duplicate claims remains a priority. POE continues to send letters quarterly to top 100 providers submitting duplicates. Action has proven successful. Decline in % of duplicates submitted in July & August. % of dupe ICNs to total ICNs in July was 3.20% and 3.18% in August. Duplicates also a #1 issue with CERT program.

CERT Update

Ms. Coletta indicated that the National CMS Goal for November 2007 is 4.4% for the paid error rate. Latest NHIC NE projection is 3.4%. For the provider error rate, 13.8% is the national goal and 10% is the NHIC projection. Ms. Coletta thanked members for their participation in CERT and encouraged them to continue to respond to CERT requests.

Hot Spots and Billing Mistakes

Ms. Coletta indicated that we had received this agenda item from a member and appreciated input. Ms. Coletta indicated that duplicates are a hot spot. Medical Review has identified that high percentage of documentation relating to consults and E&M does not support service. Medical Review to publish articles to the website.

CMS

NPI & PQRI

Ms. Coletta reiterated sending a sampling of claims with just NPI and increasing amount if processing successful. Ms. Coletta indicated that PQRI would continue in 2008. Advised that it may be too late to meet 80% threshold to participate this year if not already.

Open Forum

Ms. Mitchell asked about PQRI and indicated that crossovers are denying PQRI claims. Ms. Jones explained that PQRI is Physician Quality Reporting Initiative and directed to PQRI tool kit on CMS website. Ms. Jones indicated that she would research PQRI crossover issue.

Ms. Hall asked if CMS has a guide for time based procedure codes. Has information from Today's Dietician for medical nutrition therapy. Ms. Coletta indicated that she would research but may need information referenced.

Ms. Plonowski asked how 2 ER visits same day, same diagnosis, different rendering would be billed. Patient came in morning and returned in the evening. Ms. Bedard indicated that she would research. Dr. Haug advised that we are currently looking at system edits to determine 'true' duplicates. Dr. Haug announced that Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) now involves Massachusetts. Previously RACs were in demo stage in other states. A few more states including Massachusetts added. The RAC for Massachusetts is Connelly Consulting. Connelly Consulting to speak at Contractor Advisory Committee meeting in October.

Ms. Chiacchierarelli asked where RACs get their information. Dr Haug stated the RACs follow local and federal guidelines in place at the time of service and for the state in question.

Dr. Haug asked Dr. Weaver to comment on consolidation of Part A policies. Dr. Weaver indicated that NGS is consolidating 250 policies. 100 policies to be consolidated and 150 to be rescinded. 20 per quarter. First 20 to be final 10/1 and active 12/1. Dr. Weaver indicated that policy information can be found on NGS website at www.ngsmedicare.com. Dr. Haug urged providers to stay informed of policy changes as Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) are implemented.

Ms. Chiacchierarelli asked if the Part A consolidated policies would have a notice and comment period. Dr. Haug indicated that the window is tight and there is no requirement for notice and comment period. Ms. Chiacchierarelli indicated that the podiatry policies in MA and RI are quite different.

Ms. Coletta thanked attendees for participating.

Next meeting is scheduled for the 12th of December at 1:00 p.m.

10/18/07