

9/1/2006

Did You Know?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) Medicare want to ensure that you are aware of the issues that impact you. Information about the following topics is available for your reference on the WPS Medicare Website at:

<http://www.wpsmedicare.com>

Please note, all information is current as of August 23, 2006. Updates occur throughout the year. For the most up-to-date information, visit our Website.

Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP)

View the CMS Web page dedicated to providing all the latest Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) news for health care providers at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios>

This page is your source for news on CAP including how to participate in the CAP program and for downloading the CAP Beneficiary Fact Sheet. Bookmark this page, as CMS will continue to post new information and resources. For more information about CAP, contact our Customer Service Department at (866) 359-1599 in Wisconsin, (866) 234-7340 in Illinois, (866) 234-7331 in Michigan, and (866) 359-1598 in Minnesota.

Hold on Medicare Payments

A brief hold will be placed on Medicare payments for all claims during the last 9 days of the Federal fiscal year (September 22 through September 30, 2006). These payment delays are mandated by section 5203 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. No interest will be accrued and no late penalties will be paid to an entity or individual by reason of this one-time hold on payments. All claims held during this time will be paid on October 2, 2006. This policy only applies to claims subject to payment. It does not apply to full denials, no-pay claims, and other non-claim payments such as periodic interim payments, home health requests for anticipated payments, and cost report settlements. Please note that payments will not be staggered and no advance payments will be allowed during this 9-day hold. For more information, please view the MLN Matters Article at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5047.pdf>

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D) Resources for Providers

The Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D) program has been a hot topic for 2006. To assist you and your patients with understanding more about the program, CMS has developed three new products as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D) campaign for health care professionals. This helpful list of resources is available on the WPS Medicare Website at: http://www.wpsmedicare.com/provider/pdfs/d_resource.pdf

Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP)

Save TIME and MONEY by taking advantage of FREE Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) software now available for viewing and printing the HIPAA compliant Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA)! MREP software gives providers and suppliers the following abilities:

- View search and print remittance information
- Print and export reports about ERAs, including denied, adjusted, and deductible applied claims

Download MREP software at <http://www.wpsmedicare.com/provider/mrep.shtml>

To find out more about MREP contact our EDI Department. In IL, MI, and WI call (877) 567-7261, in MN call 952-885-2811. Take advantage of this new software and begin using MREP today!

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

What is the National Provider Identifier (NPI)? Do I need to get an NPI? When can I apply for my NPI? How do I get my NPI? When should I begin using the NPI? What are the NPI requirements? How does the NPI benefit me? Where do I find more information on the NPI? Find the answers to these important NPI questions and more by visiting our Website today at http://www.wpsmedicare.com/provider/npi_resource.shtml



~September 2006~

