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Visit our Website

www.silverstateaco.com

Who we are, who our members are, preferred providers, hospitalists, board of directors, management

Contact Us:

(702) 608-0417

SilverStateACO@

SilverStateACO.com

ICD -10 is coming... soon!

CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) is moving forward on transitioning from ICD-9, effective October 1, 2015. Get ready now. Your practice or clearinghouse can (and should) conduct acknowledgement testing at any time with your Medicare Administrative Contractor. Testing will ensure that you can submit claims with ICD-10 codes.

Only claims coded with ICD-10 will be accepted for services provided on or after October 1st, whether submitted electronically or using alternate methods (described below). Be sure to talk to your EHR vendor.

Medicare does have several options for providers who are unable to electronically submit claims with ICD-10 diagnosis codes, due to problems with the provider's system. These options include: Free billing software that can be downloaded at any time from every Medicare Administrative Contractor(MAC); Using Part B claims submission functionality on the MAC's provider internet portal (this option is available in about half of the MAC jurisdictions); Submitting paper claims, if the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act waiver provisions are met. . Each of these options does require that the provider be able to code in ICD-10. If you intend to use any of these options, be sure to allot time for your staff to prepare and complete training on the free billing software or portals.

Keep in mind that reimbursement for outpatient and physician office procedures will not be determined by ICD-10 codes. These will continue to be based on CPT and HCPCS procedure codes, which are not changing. However, ICD-10-PCS codes will be used for hospital inpatient procedures, just as ICD-9 codes have been. Also, ICD diagnosis codes are sometimes used to determine medical necessity, regardless of care setting.

CMS believes that the transition to ICD-10 is foundational to modernizing health care and improving quality by improving coordination of a patient's care, advancing public health research and surveillance, improving emergency response through detection of disease outbreaks and adverse drug events, supporting innovative payment models that drive quality of care, and enhancing fraud detection efforts. Let's hope they are right, and that the benefits are worth the effort we now have to expend. Whether they prove to be right or not, we now have to prepare for the transition.... because it is happening!

To keep up to date on the progress of the transition, get tips and the latest news and resources, go to the ICD-10 website:

www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10.

Compliance reminder

In a recent presentation, an investigator for the Office of Civil Rights advised that 51% of major HIPAA breaches of Patient Health Information (PHI) (defined as those in which the PHI of 500+ individuals had been disclosed) were attributed to theft, and 19% to unauthorized access / disclosure. Both of these could be accomplished by sharing "unprotected" PHI. Protected Health Information should never be sent via regular email. If patient information must be sent via email, be sure to use an encryption service. (There are various free encrypted email services available. For additional information, contact the Compliance Officer of SSACO at 702-608-0417.)

Part of the team....

As a team, we can achieve better care for our patients and better results for our practices.

Please share your ideas, best practices, etc. We'd love to hear from you! Also, please forward email addresses for any staff in your practice who you think might benefit from receiving the newsletters and emails. We'd be happy to include them.

Do you know of any physicians or practices who would like to be part of our team? Please let us know about them (and them about us). In order to join Silver State ACO for the year beginning January 1, 2016, we must have all documentation done by the beginning of September.

We heard you - but we haven't heard from you. Practice Managers Meeting - new time, new locations...

We hope to see you at the meetings. Please rsvp so that we know to expect you!

PRACTICE MANAGERS MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Wednesday, July 22nd at noon – Summerlin Hospital – Lunch will be served, and

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 am – Spring Valley Hospital – Breakfast will be served

We have tried to make the times and locations more convenient so that you can join us!! Who, from your practice, might benefit from learning about our care management initiatives, use of the Health Endeavors website, staying within our "team" of preferred provider specialists. Please join us – for one, or both! – of the meetings.

Until then, stay cool and enjoy your summer!