

CLIENT ALERT



Medical Management Strategies, 3000 Broad Street, Suite B217, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

January 11, 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MMS

CCPN add new products January 1, 2010

Coastal Communities Physician Network sent notices to participating providers of the changes to their plans effective 1/1/2010. Those contracts now include:

Senior Products: Secure Horizons Blue Shield 65 Plus

These are Medicare Advantage products. Blue Shield 65 Plus is primarily being offered through Calpers, however there may be other employers included. They are HMO products and members will be required to designate a PCP. Authorizations are required for specialty services the same as with the other commercial products. All claims are to be submitted to CCPN for processing and payment.

Commercial Plans

- Aetna HMO
- Anthem Blue Cross HMO
- Blue Shield of CA HMO
- Blue Shield Net Value (exclusive to CCPN)
- PacifiCare of CA HMO

All commercial plans are paid according to your CCPN contracted rates.

Anthem Blue Cross Health Families Update

In a December 22nd bulletin Anthem announced that the Prudent Buyer Enhanced Rates for Healthy Families will continue instead of falling to Medi-Cal rates as previously announced. There will be a transition period related to the system changes taking place to reinstate the previous schedule for Healthy Families. Keep in mind that you may not balance bill Healthy Families Program members. If you have questions regarding this announcement please call 1-8777-811-3113 or email to ssbrecurit@wellpoint.com.

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United Healthcare – new Medicare Advantage PPO Plan

UHC mailed contract amendments to contracted providers announcing a new Medicare Advantage PPO effective May 1, 2010. The amendment gives information about the plan and fees. Since the amendment is a “**default participation notice**” it means you are not required to sign something to participate; however you do have to notify UHC if you choose not to participate. Some of the rates MMS has seen are better than other plans, however each contract could have a different reimbursement rate. If you receive the amendment from UHC, would you please send or fax a copy to MMS so that we are aware of your choice to participate or not. If you would like assistance with the rates we are happy to help with that as well.

Revised 2010 Medicare Rates

Revised rates are now available at the Palmetto GBA website. www.palmettogba.com Click on the left side J1 for California. Then click "what's new". Scroll down and click on the physician fee schedule for Southern CA release 1/5/2010.

Here is a sample fee comparison of 2009 to Revised 2010 Medicare rates. Keep in mind these are the published rates through February 28, 2010.

**Sample Family Practice Medicare 2009-2010 comparison –
San Luis Obispo County**

CPT Codes	2009 Medicare	Revised 2010 Medicare	Diff in \$\$	% Diff of 2009
99202	64.62	68.58	3.96	6.13%
99203	93.19	99.01	5.82	6.25%
99204	143.53	152.93	9.40	6.55%
99205	180.99	192.07	11.08	6.12%
99211	19.35	19.72	0.37	1.91%
99212	37.92	39.80	1.88	4.96%
99213	62.63	66.78	4.15	6.63%
99214	94.16	99.99	5.83	6.19%
99215	126.88	134.59	7.71	6.08%
99222	123.19	129.12	5.93	4.81%
99232	67.30	69.08	1.78	2.64%
99233	96.34	99.09	2.75	2.85%
99236	208.09	211.44	3.35	1.61%

If you prefer to have MMS put together specific fee comparisons for your practice, please contact Nancy Chalk (805-547-1255, ext 131) or Ceresa Beason (805-545-9015) to discuss the process. Keep in mind that tasks completed by the contracting and credentialing department are billed separately for the amount time used.