

MSMS Medigram



Valuable insights on ACOs



e-News for Friday, March 15, 2013

Get the Lowdown on Medicare 2% Cut Coming April 1

Despite efforts from organized medicine to stop it, Medicare physician fee-for-service reimbursement will be reduced by 2% for dates of service on or after April 1 as a result of the sequestration order issued on March 1. Medicare EHR Incentive payments will be cut by 2%, as well. Because Medicaid payments are exempt from sequestration, Medicaid EHR Incentive Payments will not be reduced.

How it happened - The Budget Control Act of 2011 requires, among other things, mandatory across-the-board reductions in federal spending, also known as sequestration. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 postponed sequestration for two months. As required by law, President Obama issued a sequestration order on March 1. The administration continues to urge Congress to take prompt action to address the current budget uncertainty and the economic hardships imposed by sequestration.

What it means for you - In general, Medicare FFS claims with dates-of-service or dates-of-discharge on or after April 1, will incur a 2% reduction in Medicare payment. Claims for durable medical equipment (DME), prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies, including claims under the DME Competitive Bidding Program, will be reduced by 2% based on whether the date-of-service, or the start date for rental equipment or multi-day supplies, is on or after April 1.

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Board Takes Up Insurance Exchanges, Medicaid Expansion & HSAs

The MSMS Board of Directors heard a presentation during its meeting on Wednesday about the forthcoming state-federal health insurance exchange. Chris Priest, Director, Bureau of Medicaid Policy & Health System Innovation, Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs, presented a look at what physicians can expect as health care providers and as small business owners.

Upcoming Events

Understanding Transitional Care Management Service
March 26
Live or Webinar
MSMS Headquarters, East Lansing

Learn to use Transitional Care Management (TCM) codes correctly and compliantly.

[Register Now >>](#)

The Weight of the State
May 8
The Inn at St. John's - Plymouth

This important conference will provide essential educational opportunities for health care professionals on advances in prevention strategies, treatment approaches, and health consequences of obesity.

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[More Events >>](#)

Watch for further details in Medigram and an upcoming Michigan Medicine.

Board members discussed the prospects for Medicaid expansion in the legislature, including the existence of several controversial issues such as road funding, insurance exchange funding and a claims tax shortfall that could make passage more complicated than originally anticipated. In light of the savings this legislation would bring to the state (approx. \$200 million) and the bleak alternative of possible cuts to Medicaid, MSMS will continue to raise the profile of this issue and provide physicians with resources needed to make the case with colleagues, patients, and elected officials.

The Board approved a measure to recommend that the House of Delegates adopt as amended Res. 29-12, which asks MSMS to encourage interested insurance carriers to develop a competitive high-deductible health plan/health savings account for the general public and to encourage state leaders to offer the same for government employees who qualify. The amended resolution will return to the [MSMS House of Delegates](#) next month.

MSMS legal counsel gave an update on cases MSMS is monitoring, including a case against Andrew J. Halperin, MD, and William Beaumont Hospital, involving Admission of Expert Opinion/Admissibility of Exculpatory Information. MSMS has been asked to file an amicus curiae brief in support of the defendants. [Legal Counsel Report>>](#)

Sign Up for March 19 CMS Conference Call about ePrescribing

Learn about 2013 PQRS and ePrescribing reporting during a 90-minute conference call hosted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), on Tuesday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m. (ET). CMS hopes the call will help physicians and practice staff understand the opportunities to simplify the processes for claims-based reporting under the 2013 Medicare quality and ePrescribing programs.

During the call, CMS will provide an overview of how to participate in the Medicare Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and ePrescribing programs by reporting through claims. Presenters will discuss how to get started, possible reporting scenarios and tips for success. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

[Sign up by March 19 at noon>>](#)

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Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) Legal Alert

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- Governance Structure
- Shared Savings and Losses
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Physicians are required to meet requirements for PQRS in 2013 to avoid a 1.5 percent reduction in payments in 2015. A number of reporting options are possible for physicians as individuals or group practices, including paper claims, registries and electronic health records.

Detroit-area Effort Targets Sudden Rise in Infant Sleeping Deaths

According to the Wayne County Medical Examiner, nine infants died during a two week period recently because of unsafe sleeping conditions. County leadership, the Detroit Department of Health & Wellness Promotion, and the Institute for Population Health are working to stop this disturbing trend.

Future initiatives include a collaborative, community action plan designed to increase public awareness about safe sleep to Wayne County residents. Highlights in the community plan include: safe cribs giveaway program; increasing public awareness through faith-based and educational organizations; collaborating with hospitals, physicians and other health care providers to raise awareness of safe sleep environments; and providing education on the practice and benefits of safe breast feeding.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure mothers and families have healthy babies in Wayne County and the City of Detroit and practice safe sleep techniques," said Mouhanad Hammami, MD, Chief of Health Operations/Health Officer, Wayne County Department of Health & Human Services. [More>>](#)

The governor also has made infant mortality a dashboard issue in his public health efforts. [State efforts>>](#)

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