

Learn How to Avoid Medical Billing and Coding Problems

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e-News for Friday, September 19, 2014

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### 1. MSMS Clarifies the Use of GY or GZ Modifiers on BCBSM Claims



Many physician practices have contacted MSMS with concerns about articles that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan recently published in *The Record* entitled "GY and

GZ modifiers, *Advance Notice of Member Responsibility* required for all claims that BCBSM is expected to reject."

MSMS immediately reached out to BCBSM at various levels of the organization to get an understanding of why they implemented this policy and ask for clarification on some areas of concern.

Here is what MSMS learned. BCBSM receives a large volume of professional claims with modifiers GY or GZ attached. The intent of appending these modifiers is to let BCBSM know that the claim is expected to be rejected. This is done for services that are payable, but not for the purpose the service is being performed.

For example, blepharoplasty performed for cosmetic reasons versus medical necessity. The logic in appending the modifiers to the claim is to let BCBSM know that the service was provided for a reason that is not payable. This is preferable to letting the claim get processed and paid and then receiving a recovery letter a year or two later, which would then necessitate trying to collect the payment from the patient.

## Upcoming Events

### Office Manager 2.0

September 25, 2014  
Weber's Inn - Ann Arbor

[Details & Registration >>](#)

### MSMS Leadership Summit

October 1, 2014  
The Lansing Center - Lansing

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What BCBSM is trying to say in *The Record* articles is that if you are a physician who appends the GY or GZ for this purpose, **you must also have the patient sign the Advance Notice of Member Responsibility and also append the GA modifier to the claim.**

After our discussions with BCBSM earlier this week, there may be some changes to this policy and we will report those changes immediately to MSMS members once we learn what those may be.

**In the meantime, we want to be sure that MSMS members understand that these modifiers ARE NOT REQUIRED for every BCBSM claim.** This only applies to those physicians who choose to use modifiers GY and GZ for the purpose of forcing a denial from BCBSM.

## 2. EV-D68 to Be Addressed on Oct. 23 at MSMS Annual Scientific Meeting



The CDC has confirmed 153 patients from 18 states who have had respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 between mid-August and September 18. In the upcoming weeks, it is predicted that more states will have confirmed cases of EV-D68 infection as the complex and slow testing of backlogged specimens are processed at the CDC.

No cases are yet confirmed in Michigan.

MSMS will present a timely session during next month's 149th Annual Scientific Meeting to provide a better understanding of the trends for EV-D68 infections. "Infectious Disease Update 2014" will take place on Thursday afternoon, October 23, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Somerset Inn in Troy.

For more information about this course as well as more than 30 additional courses presented by local and national experts, visit [www.msms.org/eo](http://www.msms.org/eo) or contact the Registrar at 517-336-7581 or [mhamza@msms.org](mailto:mhamza@msms.org). Earn up to 28.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*<sup>™</sup> during the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Statement of Accreditation:** The Michigan State Medical Society is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**AMA Credit Designation Statement:** The Michigan State Medical Society designates this live activity for a maximum of 28.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## 3. Arrange Face Time with Your Legislator Now Through December

This is an uncertain time in the Michigan Legislature as we go into the November elections and the lame duck session that will follow.

MSMS Government Relations staff is keeping a close eye on

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*Doctor Mohammed Arsiwala met with Rep. Thomas Stallworth and other legislators at the Capitol this week.*

a number of bills and last-minute politics from now until the end of this session.

Nothing is more powerful to get the voice of medicine heard than a face-to-face meeting with your legislator at the Capitol. You can educate him or her about the pros and cons of pending legislation as well as overall issues that affect the practice of medicine

and the safety of patients.

Now is not the time to sit back and relax. Now is the time to act. Your voice does matter. Before your face-to-face meeting, you will be thoroughly briefed by MSMS staff so you can confidently speak up for the profession and patients.

To set up a meeting with your legislator, please contact Steve Japinga, Chief, Public Policy & Legislative Affairs, at 517-336-5781 or [sjapinga@msms.org](mailto:sjapinga@msms.org).

#### **4. Michigan Raising Awareness of Sickle Cell Disease; Walk on Sept. 27**



Gov. Snyder has declared September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in Michigan.

"Treatment advances for sickle cell disease have prevented most of the complications that were life threatening in childhood just a few decades ago," said MSMS member Dr. Matthew

Davis, chief medical executive of the Michigan Department of Community Health. "While we have taken significant strides to improve the lives of those affected by sickle cell disease, our work in the health care and public health communities must continue and include further advances to support individuals with sickle cell disease."

Statewide, approximately 2,800 Michigan residents suffer from sickle cell disease and approximately 140,000 carry the sickle cell trait. Although the disease is most prevalent in African Americans, it also occurs in other ethnic groups including individuals of Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Central and South American, and Asian heritage.

Sickle cell disease, often called "sickle cell anemia," is the most commonly inherited blood disorder in the United States. A few decades ago, children with sickle cell disease were at risk of overwhelming infection and damage to the spleen and lungs. More recent allow many people with sickle cell disease to live longer, healthier lives.

The Sickle Cell Disease of Association of America, Michigan Chapter, is hosting a Sickle Cell Awareness & Myth Dispelling Walk at the Detroit Zoo on September 27 at 9 a.m. to raise awareness about the issue. Registration includes zoo admission and an event

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t-shirt. Residents can register for the event online by visiting [www.scdami.org](http://www.scdami.org). For more information about sickle cell disease and awareness events in Michigan, visit [www.michigan.gov/sicklecell](http://www.michigan.gov/sicklecell).

## 5. Free CME for Your Membership Renewal by November 15



Your MSMS membership renewal is in the mail. As a thank you for your loyalty as an MSMS member and for paying early, all physicians who pay their 2015 dues by Nov. 15 will receive a coupon for a free CME course at an MSMS educational session.

The strength and effectiveness of MSMS as your professional association is predicated on strong membership. The free CME course is just a small token of appreciation for your continued support of organized medicine.

For questions about membership, please contact Joshua C. Richmond, Director, Membership & Political Fundraising, at 517-336-5788 or [jrichmond@msms.org](mailto:jrichmond@msms.org).



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