

e-News for Friday, December 19, 2014

Upcoming Events

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1. Sales, Use, and Withholding Taxes 2015: Summary of Changes



In January 2015, the Michigan Department of Treasury will begin to process current-year Sales, Use, and Withholding (SUW) tax returns with a new online system. As a result of this new processing system, there will be changes to the SUW forms and to the way taxpayers can file and make

payments for tax year 2015 returns.

New e-Services

The new bundle of e-services is called Michigan Treasury Online (MTO). SUW taxpayers will have 24/7 access to their accounts, and will be able to file returns and make payments electronically in one convenient transaction.

Highlights of New Online Features

- Free service, no cost 24/7 access to use online services
- Review and make changes to the account
- Electronically file (e-file) and electronically pay (e-pay) in one transaction
- Update, add, or delete tax types

Compliance Essentials You Need to Know in 2015

January 28, 2015
Detroit Marriott Troy

This conference is designed to help physicians, medical staff and Physician Organizations stay up-to-date on the latest compliance rules, deadlines and obligations. Be prepared to learn about government initiatives that impact care delivery and billing, as well as the latest enforcement trends.

[Details & Registration >>](#)

Beyond Checking the Box: Legalities and Practicalities of HIT

February 17, 2015
Detroit Marriott Troy

Health information technology (HIT) is creating many challenges for physicians and other health care professionals as they work to understand how to marry technology with practice transformation goals. The presenters of this course will provide attendees with practical advice to help manage the various opportunities and requirements associated with the implementation of HIT tools and resources in medical practice.

[Details & Registration >>](#)

- Delegate authority (including Payroll Service Providers (PSPs) and Third-Party Administrators (TPAs))

[Sales, Use, and Withholding Guide >>](#)

2. HHS Awards More than \$665 Million to Design and Test State-Led Efforts to Improve Health Care Quality, Accessibility and Affordability



Twenty eight states, including Michigan, three territories and the District of Columbia will receive over \$665 million in Affordable Care Act funding to design and test health care payment and service delivery models that will improve health care quality and lower costs, Health and Human

Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced today. Together with awards released [in early 2013](#), over half of states (34 states and 3 territories and the District of Columbia), representing nearly two-thirds of the population are participating in efforts to support comprehensive state-based innovation in health system transformation aimed at finding new and innovative ways to improve quality and lower costs.

[Read more >>](#)

3. Future of Medicaid Primary Care Uplift



The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) recently released a final bulletin (MSA 14-61) which explains how increased payments for Medicaid primary care services (uplifts) rendered by primary care physicians will be paid in 2015. MSMS advocated for

practice characteristics (60 percent of specified evaluation and management codes) to be added as one of the eligibility criteria. We are happy to report that provision was included in the final version.

The current Medicaid primary care uplift was authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Because it is set to expire at the end of 2014, the Michigan Legislature included a partial continuation of the Medicaid primary care enhanced rates to Medicare rates beyond December 31, 2014 in the Fiscal Year 2015 MDCH budget (Section 1801 of Public Act 252 of 2014).

This extension will enable physicians with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, and pediatric medicine who provide certain primary care services to be reimbursed at approximately 78 percent of Medicare rates for dates of service on and after January 1, 2015. Payments will be made on qualified procedure codes. To be eligible for the adjusted payment, physicians must be board certified or board eligible in one of the three designed primary care specialties recognized by the

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American Board of Medical Specialties, American Osteopathic Association, and the American Board of Physician Specialists. Non-board certified or non-board eligible primary care physicians may be eligible for the uplift if a review of their billing history demonstrates that at least 60 percent of the physician's codes paid by Medicaid are for E/M codes specified in the policy.

Physicians must update and maintain their primary specialty and subspecialty designations in their Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) enrollment profile.

If you have further questions, contact Stacie J. Saylor, CPC, CBC, at (517) 336-5722 or ssaylor@msms.org.

4. Five Student Loan Refinancing Myths Demystified

When was the last time you took a hard look at your student loans?

If you're like many borrowers, you probably try hard not to think about them. That monthly deduction from your bank account might be an aggravating reminder, but one that you've grudgingly come to accept over time. After all, what's the point in dwelling on your loans if there's nothing you can do to change them?

The truth is, there may be a way to ease your student loan burden, and that "way" is called refinancing. It's not available to every borrower, but if you qualify to refinance your loans at a lower interest rate, you may be able to make lower monthly payments, pay off loans faster and take a big bite out of your total balance.

Unfortunately, many eligible borrowers don't take advantage of refinancing because of misconceptions they have about the way that student loans work. Here, MSMS Practice Solution partner SoFi demystifies five student loan myths that can stand in the way of borrowers saving money.

[Read more >>](#)

5. Let MSMS Continue Fighting for You

We know your focus is taking care of your patients, which leaves little time to fight the battles that are facing your profession. That's why the Michigan State Medical Society is relentlessly working for you and your patients. Whether it's representing medicine in Lansing and Washington, D.C., meeting with third-party payers to get you paid, developing practice management tools and seminars for you and your office staff, or creating programs to improve public health, MSMS has long been a physicians' best advocate. The more members we have, the more we can do on your behalf.

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Infectious Disease Spread Prompts Practice Concerns

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