

Infectious Disease Spread Prompts Practice Concerns

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e-News for Friday, January 9, 2015

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1. Workers Comp Gets New Guidelines When Prescribing Opioids



In December, the Michigan Legislature agreed to suggested changes about how physicians will provide long-term opioid treatment to patients in the workers' compensation system. Over the past decade, the number of opioid prescriptions has risen to alarming levels

leaving physicians, lawmakers, and regulators to seek solutions to control the usage of these helpful, but highly addictive drugs. The Health Care Advisory Committee (HCAC) of the Michigan Workers' Compensation Agency was tasked in early 2013 with finding a solution to the opioid utilization problem in the workers' compensation system.

Employers were showing that the majority of their long-term pain treatment expenses for employees were covering the costs associated with opioids, whether it be continual coverage of the drugs or paying for rehabilitation for those who became addicted to the medication.

Upcoming Events



Compliance Essentials You Need to Know in 2015

January 28, 2015
Troy Marriott

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
Troy Marriott

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

[Read more >>](#)

2. New Standard Consent Form to Improve Information Sharing, Quality Health Care



The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) this week announced the implementation of the new Behavioral Health Standard Consent Form (DCH-3927) aimed at improving the health information sharing process and the delivery of quality health care services for Michigan residents.

"As the health care community, it is important we look at new ways to integrate services and coordinate efforts to provide quality care for our residents," said Nick Lyon, director of the MDCH. "By making the consent process easier to navigate, the new standard consent form will help streamline the health care delivery system for Michigan residents and the providers who care for them."

[Read more and download the DCH-3927 Toolkit >>](#)

3. Telemedicine Improves Access to Care But Creates Liability Risks



Telemedicine involves the delivery of health care to patients in remote locations and to underserved patient populations through audio-visual, online, and wireless applications. This leads to improved access to medical care and consultation, more efficient treatment plan implementation, cost savings for patients, and increased patient satisfaction.

The use of telemedicine is growing, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced that in the 2015 physician fee schedule, Medicare payments to telehealth originating sites will increase by 0.8 percent. However, numerous federal and state statutes have created significant liability risks for medical practitioners who engage in any form of telemedicine.

[Read more >>](#)

4. Results from CMS November ICD-10 Acknowledgement Testing Week

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), it conducted a

advice to help manage the various opportunities and requirements associated with the implementation of HIT tools and resources in medical practice.

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[More Events >>](#)

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ICD-10

successful acknowledgement testing week in November. Acknowledgement testing gives physicians and other providers the opportunity to submit claims with ICD-10 codes to the Medicare Fee-For-service (FFS) claims systems and receive electronic acknowledgements

confirming that their claims were accepted. While providers are welcome to submit acknowledgement test claims anytime, during the November testing week, testers submitted almost 13,700 claims.

[Read more >>](#)

5. Michigan Awards \$1.34 Million to 44 Health Innovation Projects

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) announced the recipients of Michigan's Health Innovation Grants. A priority for Governor Rick Snyder and MDCH, this is the second year that Michigan has awarded these grants to improve the delivery of health services in Michigan. The 44 one-time projects will each receive up to \$35,000 in funding.

MDCH will award funding for 44 projects across the state for a total of \$1,346,993 in grants. The Health Innovation Grants are intended to encourage creative approaches to helping bridge the gap between creative, collaborative ideas and their implementation. Michigan is looking to encourage innovative advances in health care that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of health services in the state.

[Read more >>](#)

6. Providers Balk as CMS Announces Penalties for 2013 EHR Issues

A CMS announcement that many doctors will see their 2015 Medicare payments cut by 1% for failing to meet federal electronic health-record incentive-payment program standards has provoked strong reactions from physician and hospital groups, according to a recent article in *Modern Healthcare*.

"The American Medical Association is appalled by the news," said AMA President-Elect Dr. Steven Stack, who noted that "more than 50% of eligible professionals will face penalties... a number that is even worse than we anticipated."

[Read more from Modern Healthcare >>](#)

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