



August 2019

MEDICARE PAPER REMITTANCES NOW MAILED BIWEEKLY

Beginning on August 9, 2019 Medicare will change to a biweekly mailing of paper remittances from weekly mailings. We receive the remittance information on your behalf the day after the claim finalizes. You receive all your remittance information from PPR via the Activity Reports we send you. If you are receiving paper remittances from Medicare please contact us to find out how to eliminate the need to file and store paper.

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

This annual observance is a great opportunity to educate your Medicare beneficiaries about the importance of disease prevention. Medicare Part B Immunization Benefits consist of

- Seasonal Influenza Immunization
- Pneumococcal Immunization
- Hepatitis B Immunization

For more information go to the National Government Services News and Alerts webpage.

MEDICARE URGES USE OF MBI

Medicare is urging providers to start using the MBI (Medicare Beneficiary Identifier) now. All patients should have received a new card with the new identifier on it. Use of the MBI will protect patients from identity theft. Starting January 1, 2020 use of the MBI will become mandatory and claims without it will be rejected. Please contact PPR if you have any questions regarding the new identifier numbers.

PROTECT YOUR PRACTICE WITH A MEDICAL CODING AUDIT

Although the cost of doing business keeps going up, a medical records audit more than pays for itself. AAPC recommends that some practices perform an external audit as often as quarterly. Counting on previous coding methods, or an EHR to accurately code your exam levels can be inaccurate. An audit can make sure that your documentation is complete, accurate, and consistent. The quality of documentation reflects the quality of patient care. Practices find that they can avoid both upcoding and downcoding. Enjoy peace of mind that you're in compliance with payer protocols. There are many sources that can perform an audit that includes valuable feedback to providers. Contact PPR if you would like recommendations for a highly qualified auditor.

PATIENT QUESTIONS ABOUT CODING

At PPR we hear from patients that the insurance companies are telling them that if the coding were different then their claims would be paid. It's rare that any changes need to be made. We carefully investigate the situation and help the patient to understand their benefits. If your patients are calling you about these billing questions, PPR is always happy to speak with the patient on behalf of our providers.

And remember, we're here to help you. Don't hesitate to call at any time for any reason.