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**PPR NEWS: 72% of patients will make on-line payments if it's available –
PPR can help make it happen!**

Industry research shows 75% of patients must have MULTIPLE statements mailed before providers collect a single payment from a patient. Let us help you lessen your statement costs!

PPR has partnered with Rev Source to offer our clients the option of including a url on patient statements for ease in on-line payment of copays and deductibles. Patient receive their bill, key in the url, provide credit card information and within 48 hours, the money is in your account! We all have seen the drastic increase in annual patient deductibles – help reduce the sting by making it easy for patients to transfer funds to you. Call us for further details.

MODIFIER NEWS: XS doesn't apply to multiple procedure in the same joint

As you remember, CMS devised modifiers XE, XP, XS, XU in an attempt to cut-down on the suspected over-use/abuse of modifier -59 (which should be used as the modifier of last resort.) Clarification has been made that XS – *Separate structure* should not be used if a secondary procedure occurs in the same anatomic site. Per the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services:

From an NCCI perspective, the definition of different anatomical sites includes different organs, different anatomic regions, or different lesions in the same organ. It does not include treatment of contiguous structures of the same organ. For example, treatment of the nail, nail bed, and adjacent soft tissue constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site. Treatment of posterior segment structures in the ipsilateral eye constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site. Arthroscopic treatment of a shoulder injury in adjoining areas of the ipsilateral shoulder constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site.

Remember CPT's guidance: "Only if no more descriptive modifier is available, and the use of modifier 59 best explains the circumstances, should modifier 59 be used."

AUDITING NEWS: Review Signature Requirements

Recent Medicare CERT contractor reviews noted significant error findings for missing or illegible physician signature on medical record documentation. For guidance on Medicare signature requirements (which should be practices for ALL payers!), visit

<http://wpsmedicare.com/j8macpartb/departments/cert/signature-guidance.shtml>