



**May 2016**

**PPR NEWS :: Sign up for patient on-line payments AT NO COST by May 27!**

**We are pleased that PPR is offering this discount to our providers. Your patient statements will contain a url – patients can pay on-line and the money is in your account 48 hours later! Contact us immediately if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity. (Regular merchant fees will apply.)**

**CODING NEWS :: New patient versus established patient**

As a reminder: a new patient is defined as one who has not received any professional services from the physician within the previous three years. Physicians in the same group practice who are in the same specialty must bill and be paid as though they were a single physician. If no face to face\* encounter has previously occurred between the physician and the patient, then the patient may be coded as a new patient the first time a face to face\* encounter does occur.

**\*professional services are considered face-to-face. If you perform a test on a patient on April 5, and then bill for a new patient visit on April 10, depending on the carrier, your claim will reject as the patient can no longer be considered 'new'.**

**BCBS PROVIDER NEWS :: Remember you are contracted to treat members of other Blue plans**

BCBSM wants to remind Michigan participating providers that you are contracted for services you bill through BC for members enrolled in other Blue plans. You therefore can not balance-bill a patient for an amount more than BCBSM allows for a service covered under the patient's home plan. It is very important you verify benefits with out of state policies, since carveouts – especially for mental health patients – very often apply.

**PRESCRIPTION NEWS :: New York requiring electronically created prescriptions**

Effective March 27, 2016, New York is the first state to require electronic prescriptions and back it with fines, civil and criminal penalties, and imprisonment for physicians that fail to comply. Minnesota requires electronic prescriptions, however there are no penalties in place for doctors who give handwritten prescriptions.

**BCBSM MEDICARE ADVANTAGE NEWS :: CIOX Health new record retrieval vendor**

Data Driven Delivery Systems will use CIOX Health/Enterprise Consulting Solutions, or ECS to perform medical record retrieval for risk adjustment services for Michigan Medicare Advantage members. If you are contacted by them, this is not an audit. This is an annual review for BCBSM to meet CMS standards for data submission and coding accuracy. You do not need a patient-authorized information release to comply with these medical records requests.