



February 2017

EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT NEWS: How Medical Necessity Fits in to Leveling

Medical necessity means the services provided were appropriate based on the reason the patient was seen. If the medical record documents a comprehensive history and exam, but Betty Sue only presented with a splinter, billing a 99215 is simply not justified for that problem oriented visit. If you are audited, a take back will result. For further information on coding E/M visits, review the tutorial in your CPT book, or the 1995/1997 Documentation Guidelines at cms.gov

MODIFIER NEWS: New Modifier for Film Xrays

Effective for services provided 1/1/17, if you are not using digital xray equipment, you must append modifier FX to your xray claims. The FX will result in a 20% reduction in the allowed amount. Please alert PPR if you are billing xray codes and are still using film.

COLLECTION NEWS: New Year Means Deductibles and Coverage Changes

We cannot stress enough – collecting copays and deductibles UP FRONT eliminates expense and bad debt write offs later! **(Medicare's 2017 deductible is \$183 per beneficiary.)**

Ask for the patients' insurance cards and make sure to check the web site or call the phone number on the back – coverage may have changed which require pre-certifications, or new filing instructions may be in place. Ask the representatives if annual deductibles have been met – if not, do your best to collect when the patient presents for the visit!

Remember – your patient received a service and is the better for it; **you are entitled to payment!**

DOCUMENTATION NEWS: 36415 Requirements

Routine Venipuncture – 36415 – is considered to be a laboratory service and as such, requires an ordering physician and a written order. Make sure there is a signed order specific to the patient, which notes the specific tests ordered, and that your progress note supports intent and medical necessity! (Don't use 99211 for an encounter that involved only venipuncture. 99211 is generally used for patient education, simple rechecks and medication reviews.)