



January 2017

DETAIL NEWS: Reminders!!!!

As we welcome the New Year, let's brush up on some billing basics:

WAIVER OF MEDICARE COPAYMENT – The Medicare Program Integrity Manual reminds us that routine waivers of coinsurance or deductibles are unlawful because they could result in false claims, violation of the anti-kickback statute and/or excessive utilization of items and services paid for by Medicare. Unless you have a financial hardship waiver on file, waivers are prohibited. More info review sections 4.6.1 and 4.22.1.1 at:

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/pim83c04.pdf>

TREATING FAMILY MEMBERS – Payment is not made under Medicare A or B for items/services furnished to immediate relatives of the provider. Husband, wife, child, sibling, natural or adoptive parent, stepparent . . . the list goes on! For further clarification visit SECTION 130 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual at

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c16.pdf>

The American Academy of Family Physicians has an interesting article on the topic at

<http://www.aafp.org/fpm/2005/0300/p41.html>

AMA members can consult their code of ethics for further guidelines.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS – don't submit a claim until your note has been completed AND SIGNED! (Rubber stamped signatures are never allowed.) Your note should be completed in a 'timely fashion', i.e. no more than a couple of days within the time service was rendered. As with most topics, all payers have these requirements, but Medicare has an excellent article with rules that would satisfy all payers, at:

<http://www.wpsmedicare.com/j8macpartb/claims/submission/documentation-timelines.shtml>

COLLECTING MEDICARE DEDUCTIBLES – You may not collect deductibles or co-insurance from a patient who has both Medicare and Medicaid. (Your enrollment status with Medicaid doesn't change the requirement.) The patient is responsible only for Medicaid copayments. For more info visit:

<http://www.wpsmedicare.com/j8macpartb/claims/submission/billing-medicaid-patients-coinsurance-deductible.shtml>

WHEN TO USE MODIFIER -25 – You can be reimbursed for extra work at certain visits, but be sure to brush up on the rules by visiting <http://www.aafp.org/fpm/2004/1000/p21.html?printable=fpm>