



October 2017

NEW CODING BOOKS FOR 2018

Now is the time to buy your new ICD-10 and CPT books for 2018. Don't delay payment or risk denials. As usual, PPR will review all of your procedure codes and notify you of any changes or updates. We do recommend that each office have these books, either hard copy or electronic, on site as a reference tool. Also, there is a search function in the PPR system for ICD-10 so you can look up any code that you want to use.

SEARCH BY DATE OF BIRTH

You can now search your patient data base by date of birth. This is extremely useful when a patient's name has been misspelled, or they use a "nickname". To use the feature just enter ++mddyyy into the search field in patient processing and all patients who have that date of birth will be listed.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Medicare open enrollment period is October 15-December 7. Beneficiaries have the chance to review their health coverage and make changes for the upcoming year. This means that it's more important than ever to ask each patient when they come into the office for their insurance card and identification so that the claim goes to the correct carrier the first time.

Also, remember that new Medicare cards with the new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the current Social Security Number based ID. These cards will start being issued in April 2018.

There will not be end to end system testing for billing companies or clearinghouses because both types of numbers will be accepted during the transition period. We will keep you updated during the transition process.

PATIENT COLLECTIONS

Overall the patient portion of medical services has been rising and although offices are doing a good job of collecting patient copays at the time of service, the biggest increase in patient collections comes when patients can make online payments. Watch for payment options offered by PPR coming soon!

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