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CHRONIC CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognizes Chronic Care Management (CCM) as a critical component of primary care that contributes to better health and care for individuals.

CPT 99490 description states Chronic care management services, at least 20 minutes of clinical staff time directed by a physician or other qualified health care professional, per calendar month, with the following required elements.

1. Multiple (2 or more) chronic conditions expected to last at least 12 months, or until the death of the patient.
2. Chronic conditions place the patient at significant risk of death, acute exacerbation/ decompensation, or functional decline
3. Comprehensive care plan established, implemented, revised, or monitored.

Who may bill for CCM? Physicians, Certified Nurse Specialists, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants. In a given calendar month, only one practitioner may be paid for CCM services. Make sure to obtain prior consent from the patient and document in the medical record.

HEALTHCARE INTEROPERABILITY

Interoperability may be the goal of modern health, but it is still very difficult to do, according to Don Rucker MD, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, during the office of the National Coordinator for IT'2 2nd interoperability Forum. CMS and ONC are working together to realize a healthcare system where data flows easily and patient care is transformed.

CMS will be releasing policies to move insurers down a path that will break down siloes and incentivize interoperability through new payment models. Systems too often refuse to share data because their fear that their patients will be "poached". This attitude endangers the health of millions of Americans as their health is not the primary focus current policies.

PATIENT PAYS

Although the patient's portion of health care bills are larger than ever, it remains a challenge to help patients understand their bills and explanation of benefits. PPR is always willing to talk to your patients to help them understand their responsibility as well as help you collect all revenue due to you.