ADVANCED NEWS

New look, new news!

This month, we're turning our attention to cybersecurity, credentialing, and some helpful industry updates.

Thanks for joining us,
Advanced Pacific Medical, LLC

Compliance

Information Blocking: What You Need to Know Now

Beginning April 5, 2021, healthcare providers must "respond to a request to access, exchange, or use EHI with, at a minimum, all requested EHI identified by the data elements represented in the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) standard." This is a very technical way to say that if a patient or the patient's personal representative requests access to their medical information, you must provide it to them in a timely fashion, in the form and format requested.

Learn more →

Credentialing

Are you a solo provider thinking of adding another provider to your practice? A solo provider practice is a practice where there is only one provider rendering services. This can be done as a sole proprietor or even a corporation. If this is something that you are thinking of here are few things to keep in mind:

- Your existing contract with the insurance company is for a solo provider practice. For many insurances, you will need a new group contract.
- New providers joining your practice will need to be **credentialed**, if they aren't already. This can take about 90-120 days.

- The group contract can't be submitted until the new providers have completed credentialing.
- It can take about 90-120 days for an insurance company to process a group contract.
- Effective dates are rarely retro-active. This being the case if the new provider renders services *before* they are credentialed and *before* the group contract is executed you will not be reimbursed for those dates of services.

The above applies if you are adding a physician or non-physician medical/behavioral health provider. If you have any questions about changes to your practice, feel free to reach out to us.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

*HHS renewed the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) for another 90-days. Extending the PHE also extends many of the temporary regulatory flexibilities that were implemented for the duration of the PHE. Including those extended for Telehealth. This will take the new time frame to **July 20, 2021**.*

[Renewal of Determination That A Public Health Emergency Exists](#)

Medicare sequester cut pause extended through 2021

This is great news for now. It means there will not be a 2% cut on all Medicare payments for the remainder of 2021!

- President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed legislation extending the pause on Medicare sequester cuts through the end of 2021. The cuts were put on hold through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, though the pause expired April 1.

- CMS told Medicare administrative contractors to hold all claims for services provided on or after the expiration date, anticipating approval of the bill after the House returned from Easter recess. The agency will automatically reprocess claims paid with the reduction applied if necessary, according to the American Hospital Association.

- To pay for the extension on the pause, the legislation will increase the cuts in fiscal year 2030.

New Email Encryption

We have begun using a new email encryption software in an effort to further protect patient health information. We are excited to add an additional security protocol to our HIPAA compliance plan!

virtru

Virtru is our new partner in keeping patient information confidential and safe. You may notice that when we email you anything with PHI included in it, that it will be delivered into your inbox as an encrypted file. Once opened, a blue 'V' will appear as the file is unencrypted. After it is done, all info will be accessible to you as normal.

Contact us today!

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