



HPCAI Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

April 17, 2009

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HPCAI Seeks Presentations for Fall Conference

Have you heard a great hospice or palliative care related speaker recently? Do you have a question you've always wanted answered? Does your hospice have a successful initiative or program you would like to share? This is your opportunity to ensure topics you are interested in are covered at the HPCAI Fall Conference.

The 2009 Fall Conference Call for Presentations was sent out this week, it also is attached to this issue of the *Update*. Please review the Call for Presentations and either complete the application form or pass it on to someone you think would make a great presenter. The form will be live on the [HPCAI web site](#) soon.

Deadline: The deadline to submit an application is **Friday, May 1, 2009**.

Questions: Contact Stacey Nay, HPCAI Director of Education, 515.243.1046.

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Hospice Regulatory and Reimbursement Update Scheduled

Nationally recognized hospice expert, Mary Michal, will present a one-day conference focusing on several of the key considerations for any hospice as it strives to meet its mission, comply with new and comprehensive regulations and ensure that claims will be paid.

Topics covered during the day will include board governance; the important relationship between hospices and nursing homes; hospice contracting issues and how the new CoPs have changed requirements; the increasingly important role of the medical director and regulatory issues associated with that role; and ADRs, probe edits and appeals.

The conference will be held May 5, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston. [For more information and to register online, click here.](#)

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New Tip Sheet Available from Mary Michal

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its contractors have broad abilities to perform prepayment and post-payment medical reviews of hospice claims. Hospices most commonly find themselves dealing with prepayment medical reviews through the Additional Document Request or Additional Development Request (ADR) process initiated by their fiscal intermediary. Typically, these ADRs relate to a particular probe or edit conducted by the intermediary. The probe or edit may be service-specific (e.g. noncancer length of stay, general inpatient care, etc.), provider-specific or beneficiary-specific.

Mary Michal, chair of the Hospice and Palliative Care Practice Group, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren law firm, has created a tip sheet for dealing these reviews. To read the tip sheet, [click here](#).

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Cahaba Announces Top Reasons for Claim Rejections

In an email sent early in April, Cahaba announced the top five reasons claims are rejected by the Cahaba Part A process. Errors including invalid names and invalid patient status can cause a significant delay in payment. You should be receiving audit trail reports which will help you correct and resubmit claims quickly. Audit trail reports are available the next business day for files received before 3:30 p.m.

Below is a list of the top five reasons claims were rejected in March 2009.

Claim Rejection	Description	Number of Claims
205	INVALID PATIENTS LAST NAME The last name submitted for the beneficiary does not match the last name we have on record for the HIC number submitted.	827
777	APASS MODULE REJECTION An undefined error has occurred. Contact EDI Services at (866) 582-3253 for more information	549
888	INSTREAM REJECTION There was a problem involving HIPAA required loops, segments, or values. The specific loop will be identified, for example, 'ELEMENT N401 (D.E. 19) AT COL. 4 IS MISSING, THOUGH MARKED "MUST BE USED" (LOOP:2010BA POS:3140)'. The number after 'POS' indicates the position in the file where the error occurred.	241
333	INVALID PAT STATUS FOR TYPE BILL The patient's status was invalid for the type bill submitted.	200
206	INVALID PATIENTS 1ST NAME/INITIAL The first name/initial of the patient on the submitted claim does not match the first name/initial of the beneficiary as we have it in our records.	172

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Lend Your Voice to NHPCO's Virtual Hill Day

NHPCO's "Hill Day" is going virtual this year in an attempt to include those unable to make the trip

to Washington, D.C.

On Wednesday, April 22, hospice advocates from across the country will converge on Capitol Hill to share news about hospice and how federal representatives can protect and improve care for the dying. With the continued threats of negative changes to the Medicare Hospice Benefit and the inevitable healthcare reform coming in the near future, it is critical that Hospice Advocates build and strengthen their relationships with federal officials.

To participate in the Virtual Hill Day, be sure you're signed up to receive NHPCO's Hospice Advocate Action Alerts through their Legislative Action Center. See nhpco.org/advocacy for details. [Click here to view a flier with more information.](#)

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CMS Issues Revised Wage Indices

On March 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published revised wage indices for FY 2009. In the final FY 2009 rule, CMS adopted a policy to phase out over three years the hospice wage index budget neutrality adjustment factor (BNAF), which resulted in a payment reduction for hospices. However, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 reversed this policy. CMS recently published the revised hospice wage indices for 2009, and Medicare contractors have six months to make retroactive payments back to October 1, 2008.

The following table lists the new wage indices:

CBSA	Corrected FY 2009 Wage Indices
Rural	0.9134
Ames	1.0712
Cedar Rapids	0.9438
Council Bluffs	1.0194
Davenport	0.9415
Des Moines	0.9837
Dubuque	0.9658
Iowa City	1.0202
Sioux City	0.9864
Waterloo	0.9083

[Click here to view a spreadsheet providing the wage adjusted payment rate for the four levels of hospice care.](#) Contact [Heather Hulscher](#) with any questions.

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District Meeting Dates

Reminder: Dates for District meetings can be published in the *Update*. Please forward meeting information to [Stacey Nay](#) no less than two weeks in advance of the meeting.

District 4

April 21, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Atlantic

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