HOME HEALTH

**EVV important message and FAQs from DSS**

The Department of Social Services has recently finalized contract negotiations with Hewlett Packard Enterprise, their MMIS contractor, to implement Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) in the CT Medical Assistance Program (CMAP). Click here to view the announcement. Effective for dates of service July 1, 2016, providers who deliver select home and community based services will be required to implement the Department's new EVV system for purposes of scheduling, visit verification and claim submission.

Click the link to view DSS' EVV Frequently Asked Questions breakdown. The Association is gathering additional questions from our providers and trying to arrange a training session for the near future.

**New motion: CMS hasn't complied with its 'failure-to-improve' settlement agreement**

*Source: HHL*

CMS has failed to update its policy manual and take other necessary actions to stop wrongful denials of claims for patients who require maintenance coverage.

That’s the latest according to a new filing against CMS by the same public interest attorneys who pursued the first legal action on behalf of chronically ill beneficiaries in the court case Jimmo v.
Sebelius. CMS agreed in a federal court settlement three years ago that "failure to improve" isn't a valid reason to deny home care to Medicare beneficiaries who otherwise would qualify because they're homebound and in need of skilled services.

According to the motion, the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual still fails to make clear that failure to improve no longer is a reason to discharge a patient from home health. The motion also contends CMS has failed to make clear to "providers, suppliers, contractors and adjudicators" that beneficiaries are entitled to "maintenance coverage."

Read the full story here...

Top 10 primary diagnoses under ICD-10

Source: OCS HomeCare, now a part of the ABILITY Network

Z47 (Orthopedic aftercare) was the most commonly used ICD-10 subcategory in the fourth quarter of 2015. That's according to an OCS HomeCare analysis of assessments conducted by more than 1,800 provider locations nationwide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 codes</th>
<th>ICD-10 description</th>
<th>ICD-10 frequency</th>
<th>ICD-9 code</th>
<th>ICD-9 frequency</th>
<th>In ICD-9 top 10?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z47</td>
<td>Orthopedic aftercare</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>V54</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I50</td>
<td>Heart failure</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z48</td>
<td>Encounter for other postprocedural</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>V58</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E11</td>
<td>Type 2 diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J44</td>
<td>Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I10</td>
<td>Essential (primary) hypertension</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L89</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M62</td>
<td>Other disorders of muscle</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I69</td>
<td>Sequelae of cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R26</td>
<td>Abnormalities of gait and mobility</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nestlé Health Science launches MyTubeFeeding.com: A new resource to ease the transition to Home Enteral Nutrition

As someone who provides patient care, you understand firsthand the direct correlation between proper nutrition and improved outcomes. When a patient faces ongoing swallowing issues or is unable to consume enough foods or fluids orally, a feeding tube may offer an effective alternative source for nourishment. For some, enteral nutrition is temporary; for others, tube feeding offers long-term nutrition support.

To help ease the transition to a tube feeding regimen and provide ongoing support, Nestlé Health Science recently launched MyTubefeeding.com, a comprehensive online resource to help people who receive or help manage a loved one's enteral nutrition at home. The Association has added this resource to our online video/resource members-only section for your easy access.

Read more...

HOSPICE

IMPORTANT Hospice Provider reminders
Source: NAHC

While the following issues have been addressed in previous NAHC Report articles and on the NAHC member listserv, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) reminds home health and hospice providers of the following forthcoming deadlines. Please share this information with appropriate staff to ensure agency compliance:

- **MARCH 15** – DEADLINE TO RECERTIFY YOUR AGENCY IN EIDM
- **March 16 - 21**: QIES System Down Time Scheduled for NEXT WEEK
- **MARCH 31** DEADLINE FOR HOSPICE AGGREGATE CAP CALCULATION AND SUBMISSION - use this spreadsheet with instructions: Pro-Forma for Provider Self-Determination of Aggregate Cap Limitation

Click here to get all of the information.

**NHPCO recommendations on changes to CR8877 and NOE/NOTR Process**

Source: NHPCO

NHPCO has submitted a letter to CMS with significant recommendations for changes to NOE/NOTR process and adjustments in language in CR8877. The letter is the result of concentrated work by the NHPCO Regulatory Committee's NOE/NOTR Workgroup. Results of the fall 2015 NOE/NOTR survey were included along with examples shared from providers who completed the survey and others. NHPCO will continue to provide members with updates.

**MACs announce one system fix for SIA payments**

Source: NHPCO

In a meeting with NHPCO this week, the MACs confirmed that the SIA payments that had been paid incorrectly, after the changes in hospice payments began in January, 2016 were fixed in a processing system correction on February 22, 2016. On the whole, the claims processing system is paying RHC claims correctly. However, the MACs have reported additional concerns to the FISS system maintainer, including RHC rates paid incorrectly when there is a break in service. Those issues will be fixed in the July 2016 release/update of the FISS system.