

MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

eNewsline

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AMA and CMS Announce "Grace Period" Details to Ease ICD-10 Transition CMS Will be Flexible on ICD-10 Specificity for One Year After the October 1 Deadline

With less than three months remaining until the nation switches from ICD-9 to ICD-10 coding on October 1, 2015, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) announced efforts to help physicians as they continue to get ready for the transition. In response to requests from the provider community, including the Medical Society of DC, [CMS released guidance](#) that will allow for flexibility in the claims auditing and quality reporting process as the medical community gains experience using the new ICD-10 code set. Modifications issued in the CMS guidance include:

- For a one year period starting October 1, Medicare claims will not be denied solely on the specificity of the ICD-10 diagnosis codes provided, as long as the physician submitted an ICD-10 code from an appropriate family of codes. In addition, Medicare claims will not be audited based on the specificity of the diagnosis codes as long as they are from the appropriate family of codes. This policy will be followed by Medicare Administrative Contractors and Recovery Audit Contractors.
- To avoid potential problems with mid-year coding changes in CMS quality programs (PQRS, VBM and MU) for the 2015 reporting year, physicians using the appropriate family of diagnosis codes will not be penalized if CMS experiences difficulties in accurately calculating quality scores.
- CMS will authorize advanced payments if Medicare contractors are unable to process claims within established time limits due to problems with ICD-10 implementation.
- CMS will establish an ICD-10 Ombudsman to help receive and triage physician and provider problems

The Medicare claims processing systems will not have the capability to accept ICD-9 codes for dates of services after September 30, 2015, nor will they be able to accept claims for both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes.

ICD-10 Deadline Is Still October 1, 2015 - Less Than 90 Days Away

The October 1 deadline for implementation of the ICD-10 code set is fast approaching, and time is running out for physician practices to complete their preparation. The Medical Society is offering [specialty-specific webinars](#) to help physicians prepare for the October 1 deadline and the AMA has a broad range of materials available on its [web site](#). Physicians may also use resources available on [CMS ICD-10 website](#).

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Editor
Pia R. Duryea
202-355-9414 (direct)
duryea@msdc.org

MSDC Lobbies DC Council Vigorously In Final Weeks Before Summer Recess MSDC Board Voices Physician Concerns on District Healthcare Legislation

The Medical Society continues to push the DC Council to act on important healthcare legislation before the Council breaks for summer recess at the end of the month. Last month, the Medical Society Board of Directors reviewed [a growing list of healthcare bills before the DC Council](#) and weighed their impact on District physicians and their patients. The Medical Society Board moved to support B21-171, the "Healthcare Decisions Act of 2015," which creates a Medical Orders for Scopes of Treatment Form to document patients' wishes for medical intervention. The Medical Society submitted a letter of support for the public record.

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MSDC Leads DC Copay Fairness Campaign; We Want to Hear From Your Patients

DC Copay Fairness, an MSDC-led coalition calling for limits on specialty drug copays, continues to raise awareness on the issue and press the DC Council for a Public Hearing. The coalition has met with key District officials, including the Health Exchange Authority Director and key Committee members and their staff, to educate them about the consequences of cost shifting by insurers. The coalition is also raising awareness through media outreach, including an [opinion piece published in the Washington Post](#).

Do you have a patient who has been negatively impacted by high specialty drug copays? It is important for the DC Council to hear from the medical community and patients before the Council breaks for summer recess. [Urge the DC Council to at the very least schedule a Public Hearing on the specialty drug copayment limitation bill](#). For additional information, please contact [Ed Shanbacher](#).

Are You Experiencing Payer Problems? Contact MSDC

The Medical Society has received a physician concern related to AnthemHealthKeepers Plus. MSDC is reviewing this matter further and investigating various solutions to address physician complaints and concerns. MSDC members who have payer disputes or concerns are encouraged to contact [Edward Shanbacher](#).

Telemedicine Benefits and Risks

From the ProAssurance Medical Risk Resource Advisor, Spring 2015

By Jeremy Wale, JD, Risk Resource Advisor

The healthcare landscape has changed radically in recent years. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act, expanding roles for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, meaningful use, and ICD-10 preparation are just the highlights.

But one change that often gets overlooked is the rapid expansion of telemedicine.

Forty years ago hospitals used a form of telemedicine to reach patients in remote areas.¹

Triaging a patient over the phone is, after all, just another form of telemedicine. Modern technology has opened up many new avenues for patients and physicians to communicate. Today telemedicine encompasses a vast array of services offered by virtually all medical specialties. Telemedicine is defined as “the ability to provide interactive healthcare utilizing modern technology and telecommunications.”² It includes interactive video, home monitoring devices, scanning and emailing photos, and myriad other ways physicians and patients can communicate without a face-to-face interaction.

Read the full article in the online newsletter.

Medicare Claims Processing Education

Increasing Your Bottom Line: Using Modifier KX Correctly in Conjunction with Therapy Services

The “Increasing Your Bottom Line” campaign was launched by Novitas Solutions, Inc. to help practices submit Medicare Part B claims accurately the first time and reduce rework in the office.

Novitas receives approximately 1.7 million Clerical Error Reopenings (CER) every year from Medicare Part B providers to correct claims that were submitted incorrectly the first time. That is a staggering amount of rework costing time and money for both you and the Medicare Program—costs that could be avoided by everyone if the claims were submitted correctly the first time.

The next topic is the correct use of Modifier KX as it relates to therapy services. The general definition of Modifier KX is “specific required document on file.” However, when used by an Occupational, Physical, or Speech therapist, it takes on an expanded meaning. Read more in [“Using Modifier KX Correctly in Conjunction with Therapy Services.”](#)

MAC Satisfaction Indicator Survey

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Don't miss an opportunity to participate in the [2015 MAC Satisfaction Indicator \(MSI\) survey](#) by completing a quick ten (10) minute survey to share your experience with the services Novitas Solutions provides.

Medicare DME Physician Education

NHIC, the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor for Jurisdiction A, which includes Washington, DC, has developed a physician educational link on [its website](#). This is an attempt to help educate physicians on Medicare DME coverage requirements and reduce claim denials attributed to lack of physician documentation. The format (checklists) is ideal for a busy clinician, and NHIC plans to continually update and enlarge the educational content.

Welcome New MSDC Members!

The following physicians and medical student recently joined the Medical Society.

Jonathan Fleurat, MD (Emergency Medicine)
Nellie Forman (Student)
Eun Joo Kim, MD (Hospitalist)
George Kolodner, MD (Addiction Psychiatry)
Vandana Reddy, MD (Ophthalmology)
Diljeet Singh, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology-Oncology)
Erin Smith, MD (Emergency Medicine)
Mulai Yohannes, MD (Critical Care)

MSDC News: Save the Date for the Annual Meeting, MSDC Leadership in the News

2015 Annual Meeting on October 28, 2015 - Save the Date!

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia will hold its 2015 Annual Meeting and Reception on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, from 6:00 to 9:30 pm at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health. The meeting will include the installation of 2015-16 President Carla C. Sandy, MD, and the final address from outgoing President John Larsen, MD. Registration will open in late Summer.

The Medical Society would like to thank its 2015 Meeting Sponsors for their generous support:

Medical Society Services, Nixon Medical Wear and Uniform Services, and Johns Hopkins Healthcare.

For information on how you can support the 2015 Annual Meeting, contact [Pia Duryea](#).

MSDC Special Award Nominations Are Open; Recognize DC Physician Leaders

Do you know someone deserving of recognition by the medical community? Then nominate them for one of the MSDC Special Awards listed below. Information is available [online](#) and nominations are due on September 7, 2015.

* **Certificate of Meritorious Service.** Presented to a physician in recognition of distinguished service to the medical profession.

* **Dr. Charles H. Epps, III Community Service Award.** Presented to a physician for outstanding public service to the community.

* **Distinguished Service Award.** Presented to a physician member for outstanding service to your Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

* **John Benjamin Nichols Award.** Presented to a lay person, organization, or both, in recognition of outstanding contributions toward improving the health of the community

MSDC Past President in the News

Laura L. Tosi, MD, Immediate Past President of the Medical Society, was featured in an article on the "[Evolution in Orthopaedic Treatment](#)" in the *Chesapeake Physician* (July/August 2015). In the article, experts explain the advantages of zero profile devices



for cervical fusion, discuss new challenges and therapies in pediatric bone health and describe how to get the most from physical therapy referrals.



Sad News: Past MSDC Executive Doug Torrence Passed Away

On Wednesday, June 24, 2015 of Colesville, MD. Beloved husband of Doris W. Torrence; loving father of Kelly T. Marroquin and her husband Cesar and Payton D. Torrence, Jr. and his wife Amy; and grandfather of Victoria, Cassie, Payton III, and Ty. He is also survived by his siblings Pat Johnson and Pate Torrence, Jr. Visitation will be held Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 3 to 7 p.m. at DONALDSON FUNERAL HOME, P.A. 313 Talbott Avenue, Laurel, MD.

Read the [full obituary online](#).

Is Technology Creeping Into Your Family?

From *Physician Family*, Spring 2015

Maybe this sounds familiar - you come home from a busy day and you rush to get dinner ready. The kids and your partner are finally home and you are anxious to have a few moments to reconnect and catch up with them all. But the dinner scene you have been anticipating all day long looks a little different. Your children are glued to their phones, catching up on the most recent social media post or text. Your spouse, although trying to seem interested in the dinner conversation, is distracted by the constant barrage of incoming emails on his or her phone or device.

Read more in this article which asks, "[Is technology creeping into your family?](#)"

AMA Seeks Nominations for Joint Commission Board of Commissioners

The American Medical Association (AMA) is seeking nominations for two AMA-appointed members of The Joint Commission Board of Commissioners for terms beginning January 1, 2016. Nominations (<http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/joint-commission/x-pub/boc-nomination.docx>) must be submitted by August 14, 2015. Please contact Keith Voogd (keith.voogd@ama-assn.org or 312-464-4539) for more information.

New Websites for National Academy of Medicine and Institute of Medicine

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM), which oversees honorific activities formerly administered by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), has launched a new website at www.nam.edu. The website has information about elected members, initiatives, awards, and other NAM activities. Reports and studies on health and medicine remain activities of the Institute of Medicine, and information on these can be found at the new web address iom.nationalacademies.org. (PLEASE NOTE: Effective July 1, 2016, the IOM's former website – www.iom.edu – will no longer be active)

CLASSIFIEDS

Brought to you by MSDC's 1817 Society Member and Personnel Provider [Favorite Healthcare](#). Contact [Favorite Healthcare](#) for your staffing needs.

Board-Certified Rehabilitation Physician for Hire

A Board-Certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician is available for hire. Licensed to practice in Maryland, the physician has five years of interventional spine and pain management experience. For more information on this doctor, call 202-407-9936 or email MedicalStaffing@FavoriteStaffing.com.

EVENTS

Ready, Set, Code! ICD-10 CM by Specialty

July 15, 2015*: Orthopedic/ Podiatry/ Spine

July 22, 2015*: OBGYN/Pediatrics

July 29, 2015*: Internal Medicine/Family Practice

August 5, 2015*: General Surgery/Gastroenterology/ENT

*additional dates for these webinars can be found by clicking the [full schedule](#).

1:00 -3:00 PM

Online webinar

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Hospital Association and the New Jersey Hospital Association Healthcare Business Solutions (NJHAHBS) have partnered to facilitate a comprehensive webinar series titled "Ready, Set, Code! ICD-10 CM by Specialty." The series is specialty-specific and is designed to prepare physicians and their practices for ICD10 compliance which is mandated by October 1, 2015. [Register online for a Ready, Set, Code! webinar](#).



2015 Loss Prevention Seminars

Register Now - MSDC Members Save 50% on Registration!

July 14, 2015 (Bethesda, MD)

September 15, 2015 (Washington, DC)

September 16, 2015 (Bethesda, MD)

October 6, 2015 (Washington, DC)

DC: American College of Cardiology (2400 N St., NW | Washington, DC 20037)

MD: Bethesda Marriott (5151 Pooks Hill Road | Bethesda, MD)

The practice of medicine has always been dynamic, but rarely has our U.S. healthcare system experienced the scale of change presented during the last two years. This seminar will expand your knowledge of liability concerns related to healthcare's changing landscape, including: Use of patient portals integrated with electronic record systems; Allied healthcare professionals' expanding role in medicine; Increased attention on diagnostic errors.

MSDC members receive a 50% discount and may earn up to 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Register or read more in the [online brochure](#).



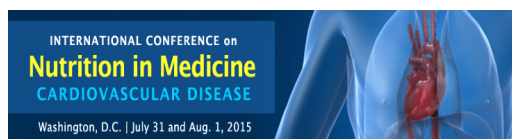
International Conference on Nutrition in Medicine

July 31 - August 1, 2015

Grand Hyatt Washington

(1000 H St NW | Washington, DC 20001)

Recent breakthroughs have revealed that heart disease starts in childhood perhaps even in utero. Yet we have more powerful interventions than ever before. This conference will share the latest scientific information to help clinicians put these interventions to work. Speakers will explain their insights on the role of nutrition in heart disease, hypertension, stroke, children's health, and other topics. We will zero in especially on how clinicians can bring nutrition into their practices. [Learn more here](#).



Medical Musical Group

August 16, 2015

4:00 PM

Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA

Join renowned operatic tenor, Daniel Rodriguez, the incomparable singing star Deana Martin, and The Medical Musical Group Symphony at the GALA TRIBUTE TO WOUNDED WARRIORS AND MILITARY on Sunday, August 16, 2015, 4:00 PM. This special performance commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and will be performed at Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria, VA. For ticket information, please visit www.medicalmusical.org

MEDICAL REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Brought to you by MSDC Corporate Partner GZ Medical Realty. Contact [Pete Papantoniou](#) for your real estate needs

University Medical Building

2141 K Street NW

Washington, DC 20037

University Medical Building is conveniently located in the heart of DC in the Central Business District. Pharmacy is located in the building. Please contact [Peter Papantoniou](#) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.

**Alexandria Professional Center**

4660 Kenmore Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22304

Alexandria Professional Center is a 119,000 SF medical office building with over 30 medical and dental practices that offers close proximity to INOVA Alexandria Hospital and I395. Contact [Peter Papantoniou](#) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.

