



Welcome to the First Edition of

Healthcare Highlights

Healthcare Billing Specialists Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2005

Spring brings the promise of freshness and new things... We thought it would be the perfect time to introduce our new quarterly publication to our clients. Its purpose is to provide little tidbits of information that will help you keep on top of various insurance company changes, billing rules and other "Did You Know" items. We hope that you find this publication useful.

TUFTS

In the second quarter of 2005, Tufts will convert current social security based member ID numbers to a new system-generated non-social security based ID numbers in the interest of enhancing member security and privacy. This will be a one-time conversion (vs. a migration over time) and members will receive a new ID number and card. To ensure that we have the most current ID number on file for claim submission, you should request copies of ID cards from all of your Tufts patients and send the information to us.

NATIONAL PROVIDER ID'S

Providers are urged to begin applying for National Provider ID's (NPI's) this month (May 2005). NPI's will be required on electronic claims in place of existing provider numbers beginning in May 2007.

The NPI is a new 10-digit identifier that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is developing to standardize providers' transactions and is mandated by HIPAA.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/regs/finalprovid>

DID YOU KNOW?

Effective January 1, 2006, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mass will begin directly managing the behavioral health care for most local HMO Blue, Blue Choice and Network Blue members taking over its contract from Magellan Behavioral Health. Magellan will continue to manage HMO Blue New England, Blue Choice New England and Network Blue New England plans. Please review any documentation you may receive and respond to BCBSMA if necessary.

In addition, Aetna is launching its own behavioral health division, taking over its members from Magellan. Aetna will also begin competing with other agencies for behavioral health contracts. If you are currently seeing Aetna members through Magellan, you should have already been offered contract addenda to get you in the Aetna Behavioral Health Network.

ON-LINE

Many of you are web-savvy and use the various insurance company websites to verify eligibility, obtain pre-authorization, and submit treatment plans. If you have registered with these websites and have usernames and passwords, please pass them along to your Billing Representative. This will allow us to check claim status more efficiently!

FEEDBACK

Let us know how you like our newsletter or if there is something you think we should cover in the next edition!

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