COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY UPDATES

Inpatient Hospital Long-Stay Patients

Efficiency: January 2, 2021 for inpatient W20 (HOPD) claims for emergency room visits that occurred after December 31, 2020. This is an extension of the changes that were announced in the December OIG Final Report on Medicare payments for Inpatient Hospital Long-Stay Patients: https://www.oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-20-00520.pdf

Outpatient E/M Tip Sheet Update

The OCC is offering February Office Hours sessions to provide a forum to ask questions regarding the changes which took effect January 1, 2021. Click here to register.

To access the new tip sheet.

Additional Code for Resolved COVID-19

Effective Jan 1st, 2021 there is a new ICD-10 code (Z86.16) in place to cope with the PHE. To review the HHS letter click here. This will allow hospitals 60 days to prepare for the expiration of blanket waivers put in place in 2020. The rule also adds new provisions to increase data sharing to that end. If approved, the rule will start January 1, 2023. For more information, see a CMS fact sheet on the Interoperability & Prior Authorization Proposed Rule.

COVID-19 PHE Waivers

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar announced that when time is relied upon to support the E/M visit Services) announced that when time is relied upon to support the E/M visit medical necessity of the visit and the accuracy of time spent documentation (i.e. total time or start and stop times). NGS Announces Medical Review When Practitioners Use Time

COVID-19 Testing

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) announced that HFS is now ready to accept claims of uninsured individuals for COVID-19 testing services effective March 19th, 2020. HFS reminders to first check the MEDI system for active Medicaid coverage and if no coverage available then submit through the portal. More details can be found in Illinois Register starting page 1715. For full details see the HFS notice memo here.

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