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May 21, 2007

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

In This Issue

- [Proposed Home Health PPS Refinement and Rate Update Will Change How You Do Business!](#)
- ["Changes in PPS Regs & Reimbursement: Crucial Legal Issues"](#)
- [HCIN Video Streamed Programs Available NOW](#)
- [NAHC Full -Day Seminars](#)

New updates added weekly to www.hcaconline.org! Check it out!

Proposed Home Health PPS Refinement and Rate Update Will Change How You Do Business!

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued the first full scale reform of the Home Health prospective payment system (PPS) since its inception six and a half years ago. The proposed rule was printed in the Federal Register on May 4th and calls for major changes to the current 10-visit therapy threshold and the clinical and functional case-mix domains. The rule also proposes to cut home health payment rates from current levels by 2.75 percent for each of the next three years, beginning in 2008.



Quick Links...

- [Click Here to Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Education Events](#)
- [Order a Cassette or CD From a Past Event](#)
- [Check Out HCAC's Jobs and Services Store](#)
- [Visit Our 24/7 Virtual Trade Show](#)

You will want to learn as much as you can as quickly as possible about these possible changes.

Don't Miss These Educational Opportunities on New PPS Refinements! All are offered in partnership with HCAC.

"Changes in PPS Regs & Reimbursement: Crucial Legal Issues"

A Lunch and Learn audio-conference

Presented by Elizabeth Hogue, Esq.

Thursday, June 28, 2007

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mountain

Join our mailing list!

As always, Elizabeth will offer clear guidance and practical strategies for Medicare certified home health agencies. Changes in Medicare reimbursement under PPS are likely to be implemented early next year. A proposed rule has been published and raises a number of important legal issues, including: What do changes in therapy thresholds mean in terms of fraud and abuse enforcement? What effect will changes have on filing cost reports? What practical strategies can agencies use to avoid negative legal consequences of the proposed adjustments?

[Visit www.hcaonline.org to register](http://www.hcaonline.org)

HCIN Video Streamed Programs Available NOW

The Home Care Information Network (HCIN) has released a free 50-minute *"PPS Refinements: Why, What and How"* seminar featuring Mark Sharp, a BKD partner and member of NAHC's Financial Manager's Workgroup. In his presentation, Mark provides a thorough review of the proposed reimbursement changes and explains how CMS has determined that modification of the current PPS is needed

Also offered for free and available beginning the week of May 21st is a seminar that will focus specifically on therapy threshold changes and features Cindy Krafft, PT, vice president of the Home Care Section of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Video Series To Come

Following shortly will be HCIN's *"Success Strategies for a New PPS Era"* series that will combine seminar presentations on clinical, financial and operational topics with periodic video streamed updates (news broadcasts) on PPS-related developments throughout the summer and fall.

The list price for the "Success Strategies" series is expected to be \$450 for unlimited access for all agency staff. **Organizations that register to view Mark Sharp's seminar above will receive a \$150 discount** (\$300 price) and those taking advantage of our **special pre-release offer will save an additional \$50** (\$250 price).

[Click here to register for these outstanding](#)

[educational tools](#)

NAHC Full-Day Seminars

The National Association for Home Care (NAHC) will be conducting five full-day, in-person, conferences focusing on the recently announced Home Health PPS rule change proposal. Each conference will highlight and discuss the changes this proposed rule will necessitate within home health agency operations, financial management, clinical services, claims coding, and information systems. NAHC believes that there will be few, if any, changes made to the proposed rules after the comment period ends. That means early training will allow home care agencies time to start adjusting to these new rules.

Conference Locations and Dates:

- May 22 - Dallas, Texas
- May 24 - Chicago, Illinois
- May 30 - Charlotte, North Carolina
- June 1 - Providence, Rhode Island
- June 6 - Las Vegas, Nevada

Conference Faculty:

Mary St Pierre and Bill Dombi will lead the NAHC team of presenters for this event. Financial sessions will be presented by Simione Consultants.

Conference Registration Fees:

- Association Member, (HCAC and/or NAHC - \$200 for the first person listed on the registration form and \$100 for each additional name listed.
- Non-Association Members - \$400 for the first person listed, and \$200 for each additional person listed

[Click here for further details](#)

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