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December 19, 2006

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

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

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

HCAC/McKesson Medical-Surgical Supply Partnership Grows

McKesson Medical-Surgical Field Representative Greg Verschelden recently presented the HCAC with a check for more than \$6,500 as a result of 3rd quarter sales in the McKesson medical supply program. Accepting the check for HCAC was Executive Director Ellen Caruso who said this check was the second highest on record for the program that has been growing steadily over the past three years. (See photo and read more at www.hcaonline.org)



Home Care Technology Moves Forward

Quick Links...

- [Save the Date for HCAC's Annual Convention: May 10-11, 2007](#)
- [Check Out HCAC's Jobs and Services Store](#)
- [Visit Our 24/7 Virtual Trade Show](#)

The HCAC -sponsored [Colorado Foundation for Home Care Technology and Education](#) began its formal operation recently with the adoption of vital papers and election of officers. The Foundation was created by the HCAC to spur and nurture the development of accessible, high quality and cost-efficient home and community based health care in Colorado through education, information and technology.

Join our mailing list!

HCAC kicked off the initiative in 2004 by writing and backing a joint legislative resolution (SJR 04-038) urging all entities to explore potential uses of telehealth in early detection and intervention of

chronic disease and the delivery of cost-effective health care services. Two years later in lobbying for SB 06-165, HCAC testified "Telemedicine (telehealth) in the home offers opportunities for stretching limited resources, for allowing effective monitoring of chronic conditions, and for improving quality of life factors by allowing clients to remain in their homes and community. There have been excellent outcomes (high client satisfaction, fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits; reduced costs) demonstrated in several Colorado telemedicine pilots conducted in home health care. Current technology allows excellent client management and at the same time addresses nursing and therapist shortage." The bill passed the House and Senate by large margins and was signed by Gov. Bill Owens one year ago, however implementation has been delayed at the Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing.

[Click here for more details on HCAC's TeleHealth Central web page](#)

RFP Posted for Long-term Care Services Pilot

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is seeking proposals for a coordinated care pilot program for community long-term care services for the State's Medicaid program. Detailed information about criteria for proposals and the application process have been published on the HCPF website (<http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/>) under "Current Issues and Projects" / "Long-term Care Pilot Proposals." Proposals will be accepted until February 15, 2007.

The pilot program was called for by Senate Bill 173, which passed the Colorado General Assembly in 2005. HCPF has defined long-term care services as those provided by home care agencies, adult day programs, independent living, alternative care facilities, assisted-living residences, congregate housing, subsidized housing and skilled nursing facilities.

Questions about this request may be submitted in writing. The preferred method for submitting questions is via email to Katherine Quinby at katherine.quinby@state.co.us or via fax to (303) 866-3669. HCPF will post notices regarding additional guidance and/or modifications to these requirements on the department website.

Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform website

Colorado's Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform created by the passage of SB 06-208 has launched its website! Please go to:

www.colorado.gov/208commission.

This site will be the best place to access meeting notices, materials and other information regarding the Commission. If you wish to receive e-mails regarding meeting dates and agendas, send your request to 208commission@comcast.net.

OASIS FAQs

Q: *I have noticed I am now receiving error +257 for the HIPPS Code and Version Code and I also notice that my HIPPS Codes are correct. Why is this occurring?*

A: A new grouper was created to accommodate the changes for the ICD-9 codes effective October 1, 2006. The version of the new grouper is 1.06 and is included in the HAVEN 7.1 upgrade, while HAVEN 7.0 contains the grouper version 1.05. Agencies should review the HIPPS Code and the Version Code. If the Version Code is the only difference, then no further investigation is necessary. Once the agency upgrades to HAVEN 7.1, this error will cease to occur – please note that if you are currently using HAVEN 6.2 you will need to upgrade to HAVEN 7.0 before installing the HAVEN 7.1 patch. (For agencies not using HAVEN, please contact your vendor for your upgrades). Note: Any assessment already locked prior to upgrading to HAVEN 7.1 that are not submitted at the time of the upgrade will also receive this warning error as the HIPPS Code was calculated prior to the upgrade using the 1.05 version. If the HIPPS Codes do not match, this will require further investigation by the Home Health Agency. HAVEN 7.0 and the HAVEN 7.1 patch are available for downloading at <https://www.qtso.com/havendownload.html>. --
Mary D. Weakland, RN, MS, COS-C, Health Insurance Specialist, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Q: *Do agencies have to do an OASIS for non-Medicare clients?*

A: The only patients (clients) needing OASIS other

than those being billed to Medicare are Medicaid patients. OASIS is not required for patients with other payers. Nor is it required for Medicaid patients if they are receiving pre and post partum care, are under 18 years of age or receiving personal care only services. -- *Mary St.Pierre, NAHC*

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