

November 2008 E-Bulletin

Medicine Reiterates That Smoked Marijuana is Not the Answer

The MSMS House of Delegates in May voted not to support any measures that advocate for smoking marijuana, on these and other grounds: smoking as a delivery system; no uniform dosage; no authorized route for obtaining marijuana or seeds; negative side effects; and more scientific research is needed. To reiterate that message, MSMS has joined a coalition of organizations representing health care (including the Michigan Osteopathic Association and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association), business, law enforcement, and others to oppose Proposal 1, which aims to make smoked marijuana use legal for citizens with certain chronic health conditions. For more information, contact Colin Ford at 517-336-5737 or cford@msms.org.

Oakland County Alliance Raises Charity Funds



The OCMS Alliance used its recent business meeting to support a good cause: raising funds for HAVEN as part of the Make a Difference Day campaign on October 25th.

HAVEN is the only shelter in Oakland County devoted solely to victims of abuse. A number of Alliance members made monetary donations at their October meeting to purchase needed items for the shelter. This effort was organized in conjunction with the larger campaign currently underway by the medical community throughout the state, and in collaboration with an ongoing sponsorship effort between HAVEN and OCMS.

On behalf of our membership, Oakland County Medical Society thanks the Alliance for their generosity and support!

Upcoming OCMS Calendar

November 13th

Full Board of Directors Meeting,
5:30p.m. Dinner,
6:00p.m. Meeting
The Community House,
Birmingham

November 13th

OCMS/OCMSA Retirement Planning Seminar
6:30-8:00p.m.
The Community House,
Birmingham

November 18th

Delegation Committee Meeting,
5:30p.m. Dinner,
6:00p.m. Meeting
The Community House,
Birmingham

The OCMS office will be closed
November 27th & 28th for the
Thanksgiving Holiday

CME CALENDAR

Office Management Leadership Training

November 13, 2008

Registration: 8:30a.m.; Program: 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

MSMS Headquarters, East Lansing

* Available via webcast teleconference

Coding for Plastic Surgery

November 18, 2008

Registration: 8:30a.m.; Program: 9:00a.m.-Noon

Hotel Baronette, Novi

Billing for Hospital Services

November 18, 2008

Registration: 12:30p.m.; Program: 1-4p.m.
Hotel Baronette, Novi

Physician Contracting and Mediation

November 20, 2008

Registration: 12:30p.m.; Program: 1-4p.m.
Hotel Baronette, Novi

CMS Announces 2009 RAC Medical Record Limits

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the number of medical records the permanent Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs) may request per National Provider Identifier (NPI) for 2009. CMS indicated these limits will be adjusted each year.

For Part B providers, the 2009 limits are:

- 10 medical records per 45-day period for solo practitioners;
- 20 medical records per 45-day period for 2-5 provider offices;
- 30 medical records per 45-day period for 6-15 providers;
- 50 medical records per 45-day period for groups of 16+ providers.

For Part A claims, the 2009 maximum number of records the RACs may demand varies by the hospital's NPI and will equal 10 percent of their average monthly Medicare claims. The RACs cannot request more than 200 records in a 45-day period for both inpatient and outpatient claims combined.

Background

The RAC pilot demonstration project was a result of Section 306 of the Medicare Modernization Act, which directed CMS to investigate Medicare claims payments using RACs to identify overpayments and underpayments. A three-year pilot demonstration project began in 2005 targeting three states, New York, Florida, and California, and has proven highly successful from the financial perspective of CMS and the RACs. As part of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, Congress directed that the program expand to all 50 states by no later than 2010.

For a complete summary of the RAC project, visit the Practice Management/Medicare link on the OCMS website, www.ocms-mi.org. (*Sources: Medical Group Management Association and Wachler & Associates, a law firm specializing in health care, located in Royal Oak, MI.*)

We're Striving for 100% Participation!!

We feel there is a great deal of value in keeping our membership informed of current news and activities that impact their patients and practices. For this reason, we are striving to obtain e-mail addresses for 100% of our membership! If you have a friend who is a member of OCMS and would appreciate up-to-date information, but is not currently receiving the local Weekly News Summary or the E-Bulletins, please contact Louise Boivin (LBoivin@msms.org). We will add them to our list of informed Members!

CME continued...

Systematic Health Care Conference 2008

December 3, 2008

Registration: 8:30 a.m.; Program: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Rock Financial Showplace, Novi

Patient Centered Medical Home: The Series

December 4, 2008, Part I

Registration: 11:30 a.m.; Program: Noon to 5 p.m.
Somerset Inn, Troy

Complete Coding Updates for 2009

December 16, 2008

Registration: 8:30 a.m.; Program: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Hotel Baronette, Novi

* Available via webcast
teleconference

Call MSMS Registrar for more
information or to
register for any of these
seminars—517-336-5784 or
www.msms.org/eo.