

PQRS and eRx National Call Set

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a national call on the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Participants must register for the call prior to 1:30 p.m. July 25. Register at: <http://www.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/register/6485bf59-9047-4120-a5ca-d9428798dc26>.

Proposed Rule Would Let Patients Know Who Accessed Health Records

A proposed new Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rule would give patients the right to receive a report showing who has electronically accessed their protected health information. Visit www.federalregister.gov and put "HIPAA privacy rule" in the search field to read the text of the proposed rule. Comments on the rule may be submitted through August 1, 2011.

TRICARE Inquiries and Verifications

Effective July 15, 2011, all TRICARE prior authorization, referral inquiries, and eligibility verifications must be performed using the online tools at www.hnfs.com or the Interactive Voice Response system at 877-TRICARE (877-874-2273).

Upcoming events

July 27-28 – Johns Hopkins' *CardioCareLive* web broadcast. Learn more and Register at <http://www.cardiocarelive.com/>.

August 31 – Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers' *Medical Documentation and Coding to Maximize Revenue and Chart Auditing Workshop*. 9 a.m. to noon OR noon to 3 p.m., Dover Downs Conference Center. Register at: www.MACHC.com.

September 8 – MSD's Practice Manager Education Series: *Gearing Up for Health Care Reform in Delaware: A Look Behind the Scenes*, MSD Conference Center, Newark, 7:30a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Register at <http://msdpracticemanagers.eventbrite.com> or call Donna Barton at 302-224-5198.

Medicare 2012 Physician Fee Schedule Released

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued the proposed 2012 Physician Fee Schedule. Under the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, Medicare payment rates are projected to be reduced by 29.5 percent, effective January 1, 2012. This is the 11th time the SGR formula has resulted in a payment cut, and all but one of those cuts have been averted by Congressional action.

SOURCE: MSD,

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