2nd Quarter 2007

# NCDS update

A Quarterly Newsletter for Clients

*Keeping your office up-to-date on industry and insurance changes, late-breaking billing & reimbursement news, and general inter-office communication…*

## Managed Care Plans (MCPs)

Managed Care Plans (MCPs) are healthcare companies contracted by state Medicaid and Medicare plans to process and pay claims for their beneficiaries. This year both Medicaid and Medicare have increased the number of MCPs they use. Additionally, Medicaid is requiring virtually all of their beneficiaries to transfer to an MCP rather than remain on the state plan.

Depending on your region, your patients could pick up one of the following MCPs in place of their state Medicaid or Medicare insurance (we have supplied you with information about the sign-up process with some of the MCPs):

### MEDICAID MCPs

Anthem Partnership Plan (800) 282-1016
If you are currently participating with Anthem Traditional plans, contact their provider enrollment dept to request a Contract Verification Form. Once that is signed and returned to Anthem, they will mail you out a contract addendum within 5-10 days. Will take Anthem about 30 days to add you to plan.

Buckeye Health Plan (866) 296-8731
Contact provider enrollment dept to request a contract and application. BCHP also requires the Ohio Dept of Insurance (ODI) Standard Credentialing form for enrollment. Will take BCHP 90-120 days to complete their credentialing process and add you to plan.

Molina Healthcare (800) 642-4168
Could take Molina anywhere from 3-6 months to process application.

Caresource (800) 488-0134
Contact provider enrollment dept and request a Critical Element form. Once that is signed and returned to Caresource, they will mail you out a contract within 5 days. CareSource also requires a completed CAQH file for enrollment (or ODI form). Their credentialing process takes 30-45 days.

WellCare of Ohio (800) 951-7719
Download their credentialing application by logging onto ohio.wellcare.com. Will take WellCare about 90 days to process your application.

Unison Health Plan (800) 895-2017

For further info on Ohio Medicaid MCPs please visit http://www.ohiossc.com/

### MEDICARE MCPs

Anthem Senior Advantage (800) 282-1016
*Same as for Anthem Partnership Plan*

Humana Gold (877) 511-5000

SecureHorizons *by UHC* (800) 236-4430 or (866) 579-8811

UHC Medicare Complete (877) 842-3210

Pyramid (866) 588-8921

### IMPORTANT NOTE

You are not automatically enrolled in any of these plans just by being a Medicare or Medicaid provider. If you have not already been contacted by the Medicare/Medicaid MCPs for your region you will want to contact them directly if you are interested in signing up. Most plans will not backdate a provider's enrollment, so **if you are not enrolled with an MCP you will not be paid for office services to patients with that MCP!**

If you are not currently participating with the MCPs in your region and would like NCDS's assistance in signing up with each, please contact Mick Polo at (888) 876-8833.

# NPI NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER

***The Federal Government mandates that all providers and insurance carriers start using NPI numbers on claims transactions by May 23, 2007.****

## NCDS is prepared and ready to bill your claims!

…But, problems still exist. To-date, those are:

- Many insurance carriers are not yet able to fully comply with the May 23rd deadline for NPI acceptance. And only a few plans are even at the "testing" stage with NPI-standard claims submission.
- Non-compliant, unprepared carriers will be unable to accept NPI-standard claims, whether billed electronic or on paper.
- Additionally, for carriers still requiring paper claims, many will not be ready to accept the new HCFA/CMS-1500 claim format by the June 1, 2007 deadline.
- Most insurance carriers are requesting advance notification of each provider's NPI number before they will accept NPI-ready claims. Currently, *Medicare* is the *only* carrier that does not require this NPI advance-notification, and is all-set to receive NPI-ready claims.
- All claims will require the NPI number for the treating/ordering physician *as well as* the referring physician.
- Presently, insurance carriers are not willing to share their NPI number database with other carriers, providers, or billing companies. Even though, by law, they are allowed to share these NPI numbers.
- Currently, there is not a universal database for Referring Physician NPI numbers available anywhere (CMS has not addressed this national problem, and presently has no plans to publish an NPI directory).

**** CMS Contingency Plan***

As of April 2, 2007, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented a 12-month contingency plan for covered entities who will not meet the May 23, 2007 deadline. Although this contingency plan protects covered entities from enforcement action for non-compliance for the next 12 months, it does not elimate the potential for claims processing errors and subsequent revenue interruption as described above. That means, when billing claims to all non-compliant carriers, we will have to continuously alternate between the old and new claim formats, while doing separate claims testing with each carrier, until all carriers are NPI-compliant.

*Each inurance carrier will be required to announce their own contingency plan.*

## What NCDS is Doing

### NPI Data Dissemination

NCDS is not waiting for the remote possibility that "someone else" may compile and publish an NPI directory of all physicians. We are taking a proactive position and developing our own **NPI database** for the various regions in which we represent providers.

NCDS would like to extend a Thank You to those clients who have already begun collecting and sharing referring physician NPI numbers with us, as well as to other clients who have helped put us in contact with some area hospitals that have been cooperative in supplying us with the NPI numbers for their staff physicians...

***But we still need your help!***

**We would like your assistance in helping us to collect Referring Physician NPI numbers to include in our NPI database. Starting immediately, your office should begin requesting NPI numbers from from all of its referring physicians. For billing, please also make sure the Referring Physician's NPI is listed on the both the patient registration form and the patient's encounter form, next to the Referring Physician's name.**

Please direct all questions regarding NPI use and dissemination to Mike Polo at NCDS at 800-556-6236 or 888-876-8833.

## EMPLOYEE CORNER

**NCDS would like to recognize the following dedicated employees celebrating an anniversary with us this quarter!**

April 13th
Rita Millam
8 years of service

June 14th
Jessica Polo
8 years of service

June 23rd
Jaime Gill
4 years of service

## QUICK NOTES:

### Medicare Part D Vaccines

If you are administering a vaccine that is covered under the patient's Medicare Part D drug plan (ex. Zostavax), you should be billing the following CPT code to cover your **administration fee**, since you will not be billing for the vaccine itself:

**G0377** --*The payment for this code is $19.33*