

2008

Medicare Education News

An educational resource guide from the Upstate Medicare Division

October 2007

What's New in Provider Education

The primary goal of the Upstate Medicare Division's (UMD's) education efforts is to give Medicare providers the information they need to understand the Medicare program, be informed timely about changes, and bill correctly. We strive to meet this goal by offering providers and their staff a number of different avenues to receive Medicare information.

In line with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) directives, we incorporate the use of self-service and electronic communication technologies as efficient, cost-effective means of disseminating Medicare provider information, education, and assistance.

Here are some highlights of what's new in our education program for 2008.

Web Site Enhancements

To help you find the information you're looking for, the UMD Web site now allows you to perform searches from all pages of our Web site.

The "Frequently Asked Questions" subsection under "Education" allows you to search the FAQs independently from the rest of the Web site. When using the search feature on our FAQ pages, results returned will include only information found within FAQ pages.

Also, behind-the-scenes maintenance is being performed on our Web site to help

improve the time it takes for you to access pages on our site. The file size of certain pages is being reduced, which allows them to load faster. This is especially helpful for providers using a dial-up connection to access the Internet.

See page 2 for more information about the UMD Web site, and page 4 for information about our ListServe options.

More Educational Events

To better meet the educational needs of the provider community, we're now offering our Basic Billing Workshop via teleconference, which allows us to offer the workshop on more dates, and affords you the ability of attending from the convenience of your office.

Understanding the need for more in-depth Medicare training, we've developed a new Advanced Billing Workshop for more experienced billing staff and providers.

Additionally, the 2007 Medicare Part B Seminar sold out in many locations, so we've added two additional dates for this seminar to accommodate those providers who may have missed out previously.

See pages 9-12 for event descriptions and an event calendar, and page 7 for the event registration form.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Bulletins

We're pleased to announce that our provider bulletin, the *Medicare B Hotline Bulletin*, has been approved for American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) Continuing Education Units (CEUs). See the subscription form on page 5 for more information.

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Required Use of the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit

Upon calling the Upstate Medicare Division's (UMD's) toll-free provider line at **877-567-7173**, you will be greeted by our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit. The IVR permits access to claim status, beneficiary eligibility, and other helpful tips and information about the Medicare program. Inquiries via telephone or in writing regarding beneficiary eligibility and claim status are required to be handled by the IVR.

IVR Tip: If the IVR indicates a claim denied as a duplicate, please be sure to listen to the instructions regarding how to access more information about additional claims processed for the same date of service.

A brochure with instructions on using the IVR is available on the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/brochure-VRUGuide.pdf.

First Point of Contact

Please remember that your first point of contact with the Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) should always be the toll-free provider line, 877-567-7173.

If you have a question that cannot be answered by the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit, a customer service representative will assist you. If necessary, they will refer you to the appropriate department, i.e., Medical Review, Provider Outreach and Education (POE), etc. The POE staff is here to provide education services. All Medicare and claim-specific telephone inquiries received by POE will be referred back to the provider toll-free line if the first point of contact has been bypassed.

Reminder About the Toll-Free Line for Beneficiaries: 1-800-MEDICARE

The Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) has been receiving calls on our provider toll-free line from beneficiaries who state their provider gave them the telephone number.

When advising patients to call Medicare for information, please direct them to call **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

By preventing these misdirected beneficiary calls to the provider toll-free line, we will be able to answer provider calls in a more timely manner.

Web Resources

The Internet is still your premier source for Medicare information. The Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Web sites are the two primary sites providers should use to access Medicare information. We suggest adding the links to the UMD and CMS Web sites to your favorites (or bookmarks, depending on your Web browser).

UMD Web Site – www.umd.nycpic.com

The UMD Web site contains a plethora of valuable information for Medicare providers. Our site puts you in touch with the latest updates and changes regarding the Medicare program, and provides easy, searchable access to provider bulletins, local coverage determinations (LCDs), fee schedules, and more.

The UMD Web site also includes computer-based training that you can use for updating your Medicare knowledge and for training new office staff. UMD offers video presentations with audio on a variety of topics and brief online modules with quizzes to help you gain a better understanding of the Medicare program. These training sessions can be accessed on the "Education" page of the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/proveduc_main.html.

If you need help navigating the site, you can view the "Navigating the UMD Web Site" online educational presentation, which is accessible from www.umd.nycpic.com/umd.html.

We encourage you to visit the UMD Web site often, as we're continually updating the content.

The best way to be kept up-to-date on the latest changes is to join the UMD ListServes. The UMD ListServes are electronic mailing lists that you can subscribe to on our Web site. See page 4 for information about our ListServe options.

CMS Web Site – www.cms.hhs.gov

The CMS Web site also contains a wealth of information for Medicare providers. While we encourage providers to browse the entire CMS Web site, we recommend you become familiar with the following Web pages, as you can use these resources to find answers to your everyday Medicare questions and issues.

- **Medicare Learning Network (MLN)** – Contains a variety of training and educational materials that break down Medicare policy into plain language with actionable tips for your day-to-day work. This page contains links to MLN Matters articles, an MLN Products Catalog, the MLN Products Ordering page, Web-Based Training Modules, CMS Mailing Lists, and more. www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/
- **Internet-Only Manuals (IOMs)** – The IOMs contain CMS program issuances, day-to-day operating instructions, policies, and procedures that are based on statutes, regulations, guidelines, models, and directives. Medicare contractors use the IOMs to administer the Medicare program, and they are also a good source of Medicare information for the general public. www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp
- **CMS Transmittals** – Program transmittals are used to communicate new or changed policies, and/or procedures that are being incorporated into a specific CMS program manual. www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/
- **Preventive Services** – Contains information on coverage, coding, billing, reimbursement, and claim filing procedures for Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings. www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp

CMS-1500 – Claim Submission Errors

Providers who are exempt from the electronic billing requirement per the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act (ASCA) and use practice management software to generate paper claims should make sure they are using the most current version. Software vendors have made changes to accommodate the National Provider Identifier (NPI). Running an outdated software version could contribute to claim rejections or the inability to send your NPI.

At the Upstate Medicare Division (UMD), we are seeing the following types of software errors:

- **Item 24E** – The diagnosis pointer is being typed in the last new modifier field. The CMS-1500 (08/05) form now has room for four modifiers. Please be sure your single-digit diagnosis pointer is typed in the correct box.

- **Item 24J** – If you are a group provider, you are required to complete item 24J with the rendering provider's information. Please be sure that the NPI is in the NPI box and the Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN) is above it in the shaded box for each detail line being billed.
- **Item 33** – We are seeing the NPI in the PTAN box and the PTAN in the NPI box. Remember, your NPI is ten digits and goes at a minimum in item 33a, while your PTAN is six characters and goes at a minimum in item 33b.
- Whether you submit claims with only your PTAN, only your NPI, or both your PTAN and NPI, they **must** be located in the correct boxes.

- The 1G qualifier is incorrectly being entered in items 24J and 33b. The 1G qualifier should only be entered in item 17a.
- The 1C qualifier is incorrectly being entered in item 17a. The 1C qualifier should only be entered in items 24J and 33b.

UMD uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology for paper claims, which is able to scan and lift the information from the CMS-1500 claim form. In order for the OCR system to perform at its maximum capability, proper claim submission is needed.

All characters need to be aligned in their proper sections and original CMS-1500 forms must be used (red and white forms). We also encourage providers to type or machine-print all mandated claim fields.

Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT)

The purpose of the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program is to measure and improve the quality and accuracy of Medicare claims submission, processing, and payment. The results of these reviews are used to characterize and quantify local, regional, and national error rate patterns.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its contractors use this information to address the error rate through appropriate educational and interventional programs. Well-informed providers are more likely to bill correctly, thereby reducing the error rate.

Based on CERT findings, the Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) has incorporated provider type and service type topics into our education program, including:

- Evaluation and management (E & M) services – will be covered in

the 2007 Medicare Part B Seminar and the Advanced Billing Workshop.

- Critical care and observation services – will be covered in the 2008 Medicare Part B Seminar.
- Chiropractic services – will be covered in a teleconference seminar. An online training module is also available at www.umd.nycpic.com/eduonline.html.
- Ambulance services – will be covered in a teleconference seminar.

If you bill these types of services, please consider attending one of our outreach events (see the event descriptions and calendar starting on page 9).

Additional education from CERT findings may also include one-on-one contacts to providers and articles/information posted on our Web site and published in the *Medicare B Hotline Bulletin*.

Reminder: Responding to CERT Requests for Information

You may be asked to provide information, such as medical records or certificates of medical necessity, so that the CERT contractor can verify that billing was proper and that claims processing procedures were appropriate.

If you receive a request from the CERT contractor, please respond promptly by submitting the requested supporting documentation within the time frame outlined in the request. The letter will provide a clearly defined list of the documentation required and where to submit the information.

Additional Information

For more information about the CERT program, visit the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/UMD_CERT.html. Here you will find articles and publications provided by CMS and the CERT contractor, as well as links to other CERT resources.

ListServe Subscription Form

The best way to be kept up-to-date on the latest Medicare changes is to join the Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) ListServes. The UMD ListServes are electronic mailing lists you can subscribe to in order to receive updates from UMD through email. UMD offers general ListServes, as well as provider targeted ListServes, which are based on areas of interest, and mirror the identifiers used in the *Medicare B Hotline Bulletin* and on the UMD Web site.

There are two ways to join the UMD ListServes: 1) Visit the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/listserve.html or 2) Complete this form and submit it via fax or mail as indicated below.

Stay Informed in Case of Emergency

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working to strengthen its emergency preparedness to ensure that its communications infrastructure can reach providers in the event of a regional or national disaster. It is important that at such times CMS and its Medicare contractors can reach providers with critical information in a timely fashion.

Providers should subscribe to the UMD **General** ListServe in order to remain informed in case of either a regional or national emergency. We also recommend that providers have an alternate contact subscribe to the ListServe as a backup.

Email Address _____
Please write legibly.

Check the box next to the ListServe(s) you would like to join. The ListServes in **bold** are used to communicate general information that is of interest to a variety of audiences. UMD recommends that all providers consider joining these general ListServes.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance | <input type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy (PT/OT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chiropractic | <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory | <input type="checkbox"/> Physician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Durable Medical Equipment (DME) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Portable X-Ray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) | * Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Software | <input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) | | |

* The MREP ListServe is used to communicate information about the MREP software and to announce the availability of software updates. If you have downloaded and are using MREP software, we encourage you to visit the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/ediMREP.html#ListServe to subscribe to the MREP ListServe.

Signing this form means that you grant UMD permission to add your email address to the ListServe(s) you have indicated above. Please note that UMD will NOT share your email address with any entity and will not use your email address for purposes other than to subscribe you to the ListServe(s) indicated above. You will begin receiving emails from UMD regarding Medicare and the availability of Medicare related information on the UMD Web site two to three business days after UMD's receipt of this form. UMD strives to limit the number of messages sent each day. Generally, you will receive no more than one message per ListServe, per day, as applicable. You can unsubscribe from the ListServe(s) at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link provided in each email. If you change your email address, you can resubscribe to the ListServe(s) by visiting the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/listserve.html.

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail your completed form to: Internet Communications Specialist, Upstate Medicare Division, P.O. Box 5206, Binghamton, NY 13902-5206, or fax to 607-766-6637.



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Medicare B Hotline Bulletin Order Form – FY 2008

The Upstate Medicare Division's (UMD's) provider bulletin, the *Medicare B Hotline Bulletin*, is available in electronic format on our Web site, www.umd.nycpic.com, where copies can be printed free of charge. To access the bulletin, go to www.umd.nycpic.com/provpublcopy.html. After accepting the CPT License Agreement, you can access the entire collection of bulletins. You can be notified via email when bulletins are posted on our Web site, as well as the latest Medicare updates, by subscribing to the UMD General ListServe, one of our electronic mailing lists. To subscribe to the ListServe, visit the "ListServes" section of our Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/listserve.html.

If you wish to receive the bulletin via hard copy or CD-ROM*, you may subscribe to it for a fee. The annual subscription cost is **\$50.00** for hard copies, and **\$25.00** for CDs. The subscription includes four quarterly bulletins published during the fiscal year (FY) – December 2007, March 2008, June 2008, and September 2008.

If you wish to receive hard copies or CDs, please complete the following form and submit with payment to the address listed below.

This program/publication/subscription/etc. has prior approval of the American Academy of Professional Coders for 1.0 Continuing Education Units [for each issue in FY 2008, which includes the December 2007, March 2008, June 2008, and September 2008 bulletins]. Granting of this approval in no way constitutes endorsement by the Academy of the program, content or the program sponsor.

* The CD version of the bulletin is a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. To view PDFs, you must have Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® installed on your computer. If your computer does not have this program, you can install the free version included on the CD.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) _____

Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN) _____

Provider Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (_____) _____

1. I am a:

- Provider/Supplier Association/Medical Society Vendor/Billing Agency
 Other _____

2. Indicate the reason you are requesting hard copies/CDs:

- No Internet access
 Other (please explain) _____

3. I would like to receive the *Medicare B Hotline Bulletin* via:

- Hard Copy – \$50.00 per year } Includes the December 2007, March 2008, June 2008, and September 2008 bulletins.
 CD – \$25.00 per year

Enclose your fee of \$50.00 for hard copies, or \$25.00 for CDs. Please submit check only, payable to:
HealthNow New York Inc.

Mail your completed form with payment to: Publications Specialist, Upstate Medicare Division, P.O. Box 5206,
Binghamton, NY 13902-5206.



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Provider Educational Event Registration Form

National Provider Identifier (NPI) _____

Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN) _____

Provider Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone () _____

Fax () _____

Email _____

(Confirmations will be sent via email.)

Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference

- October 16, 2007
- December 13, 2007
- January 24, 2008
- March 25, 2008
- May 8, 2008
- July 22, 2008
- September 25, 2008

Ask the Contractor Teleconference

- December 12, 2007 – Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)
- February 13, 2008 – Billing When More Than One Physician is Involved With a Patient's Care
- April 2, 2008 – Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)
- August 6, 2008 – Preventive Services

Teleconference Seminar

- February 20, 2008 – Chiropractic Services
- April 16, 2008 – Ambulance Services
- June 12, 2008 – Podiatry Services

Payment & Registration

The cost for attending the Advanced Billing Workshop, 2007 Medicare Part B Seminar, and 2008 Medicare Part B Seminar is **\$15.00** per person. Payment is due with your registration. Please make payment by check only, payable to: **HealthNow New York Inc.**

Mail your registration form (and check, if applicable) to: Provider Outreach and Education, Upstate Medicare Division, P.O. Box 5206, Binghamton, NY 13902-5206.

You can also register for these events online on the Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/provcaln.html. For registrations submitted online for the events that have a fee, confirmations will be sent after payment is received.

Advanced Billing Workshop – \$15.00 per person

- Albany (Latham) – October 25, 2007
- Binghamton – September 10, 2008
- Saratoga Springs – October 24, 2007
- Syracuse – November 13, 2007

Additional Advanced Billing Workshops are scheduled for Amherst, Hornell, Olean, Rochester, and Watertown. However, venues are to be determined, therefore, we cannot accept registrations yet for these locations. Please see the Event Calendar on page 11 and the note () on page 12 for details.*

2007 Medicare Part B Seminar – \$15.00 per person

- Buffalo (Amherst) – October 10, 2007
- Verona – November 5, 2007

2008 Medicare Part B Seminar – \$15.00 per person

- Albany (Latham) – April 23, 2008
- Binghamton – March 12, 2008

Additional 2008 Medicare Part B Seminars are scheduled for Amherst, Rochester, Syracuse, and Watertown. However, venues are to be determined, therefore, we cannot accept registrations yet for these locations. Please see the Event Calendar on page 11 and the note () on page 12 for details.*



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Educational Events

The Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) offers the following workshops and seminars across upstate New York, as well as teleconferences. See the Event Calendar on page 11 for dates, times, and locations. To register, see the registration form on page 7.

Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference*

Who should attend?

This workshop teleconference is structured for new billing staff and providers who wish to establish or refresh their Medicare knowledge base. The basic elements of Medicare billing will be covered, therefore, this workshop teleconference is recommended for those enrolling in Medicare for the first time.

Topics:

- Parts of Medicare.
- Preventive Services.
- Method of Payment.
- CMS-1500 Instructions.
- What is a Modifier, Categories and Ranking.
- Limitation of Liability.
- Shortage Areas.
- Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT).
- Fraud and Abuse.
- Electronic Claim Submission.
- Claim Submission Time Limit.
- Provider Remittance.
- Appeals Process.
- Telephone Clerical Error Reopening Line.
- Staying Informed and Updates.

Advanced Billing Workshop

This program has prior approval of the American Academy of Professional Coders for 4.5 Continuing Education Units. Granting of this approval in no way constitutes endorsement by the Academy of the program, content or the program sponsor.

Who should attend?

This full-day workshop is structured for experienced billing staff and providers who wish to increase and reinforce their existing Medicare knowledge.

Topics:

- **Facilitating Correct Payment of Claims** – A review of the most frequent reasons for claim rejection/denials, followed by a

discussion of ways to improve billing and avoid these errors.

- **Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database** – A description of the database indicators for Global Surgery, Multiple Procedure, and Bilateral Codes; instructions for accessing the information necessary for correct coding on the Web site; and applicable modifiers.
- **National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)** – A review of the coding files on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Web site and a discussion of the appropriate use of applicable modifiers, including modifier 59.
- **Provider Remittance** – How to read the provider remittance, including: remark codes, claim adjustment reason codes, withholdings, and forwarding balances.
- **Home Health** – Correct billing/coding for care plan oversight and physician certification and recertification.
- **Evaluation & Management (E & M)** – Documentation and use of modifiers for E & M services.
- **Provider Enrollment** – Information about provider enrollment applications, resources, and tips for correct processing.
- **“Incident to” & Locum Tenens** – A description of the services, correct billing/coding, and applicable modifiers.
- **Staying Informed** – A review of the Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) Web site, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Web site, and applicable updates to CMS policy.

2007 Medicare Part B Seminar

This program has prior approval of the American Academy of Professional Coders for 4.5 Continuing Education Units. Granting of this approval in no way constitutes endorsement by the Academy of the program, content or the program sponsor.

Who should attend?

This seminar is structured for billing staff and providers who want to increase their knowledge about the following topics.

Topics:

- Timely Medicare updates.
- Evaluation & Management Coding Documentation Guidelines and when to append the 25 modifier.
- National Provider Identifier (NPI) updates.
- Tips for submitting a “clean” provider enrollment application.
- Guest speakers to educate you on Medicare fraud and abuse, and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) options.

2008 Medicare Part B Seminar

This program has prior approval of the American Academy of Professional Coders for 4.5 Continuing Education Units. Granting of this approval in no way constitutes endorsement by the Academy of the program, content or the program sponsor.

Who should attend?

This seminar is structured for billing staff and providers who want to increase their knowledge about the following topics.

Topics:

- **2008 Medicare Part B Updates** – A review of the most current updates to the Medicare program affecting providers, with a focus on billing and coding changes.

- **Critical Care and Observation Services** – A review of Medicare policy and regulations, documentation requirements, and service-specific reviews (SSRs).
- **Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)** – EDI Field Support Specialists help you understand the options available to providers billing Medicare electronically, including Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) retrieval via the free Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) software.
- **The “Wall of Denial”** – A review of the top claim rejection and denial reasons, followed by ways to avoid hitting the “wall.”
- **Web Site Navigation** – Instructions for navigating Web sites useful for the accurate billing and coding of Medicare claims, and guidance in locating applicable Medicare policies and regulations. Interaction with live Internet will be used, if possible. Includes:

- UMD Web site – Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), Publications, Education, etc.
- CMS Web site – Internet-Only Manuals, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), various coding files, Medicare Learning Network.
- Searching the Web sites – Tips for searching and how to apply these tips.

** Although there is no cost to participate in these teleconferences, we will ask for pre-registration prior to the call. Upon receipt of your registration, you will be sent a confirmation. Teleconference dial-in information will be provided by email one to two weeks prior to the teleconference date.*

Teleconference Seminars*

Similar to our in-person seminars, these teleconference seminars provide a variety of information related to the specific topic and allow seminar registrants to participate in a question and answer session with Medicare staff.

Topics:

Each teleconference seminar will focus on the Medicare coverage policy and regulations for the specific topic and how to properly submit claims to Medicare.

The following teleconference seminars are being offered:

- **Ambulance Services** (April 16, 2008)
- **Chiropractic Services** (February 20, 2008)
- **Podiatry Services** (June 12, 2008)

Ask the Contractor Teleconference (ACT)*

Each teleconference will include a brief overview of a selected topic, followed by a question and answer period. See the event calendar on the next page for the topics.

Downloading Materials for Events
Please download, print, and bring applicable materials with you, as they will not be provided at the event.

To access event materials, go to the Events page on the UMD Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/provcaln.html. In the event calendar, click on the event you will be attending to access the event description page, and there you will find any applicable materials to be downloaded for the event.

Please don't download materials any sooner than one week prior to the event you are attending, as materials may be updated prior to the event.

Would You Like to Host a Seminar in Your Geographic Area?

If driving to our office is too great a distance, or if one of the hotel locations does not meet your needs, you may wish to have our staff conduct a seminar at another location in New York where you will provide the room and refreshments. With a guarantee of a minimum number of attendees, we can provide our seminars at other locations for a reasonable cost. If you're interested in hosting a seminar, please call 866-528-8094, leave a message, and we will contact you.

One-on-One Education

Our Education Specialists are available to meet with you one-on-one – by teleconference or to visit your office (for a fee sufficient to cover our expenses) – to provide individualized education. If you are interested in scheduling a one-on-one appointment, please call 866-528-8094, leave a message, and we will contact you.

Charge and Refund Policy for Educational Events

For all Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) scheduled educational events where a charge is applied, the fee is used to offset the cost of the meeting room and equipment rental. In the event that you must cancel your registration, you may do so up to 10 business days prior to the program and receive a full refund. If you need to cancel less than 10 business days prior to the event, you will be responsible for the full charge and will not be eligible to receive a refund. You may send a substitute from your organization without penalty. This policy is effective for all events on and after August 1, 2007, and has been implemented so other potential attendees may be provided the opportunity to fill vacant seats.

Please note: Medicare reserves the right to cancel an event if registration is insufficient. If we must cancel due to lack of participation, we will notify all registrants at least 48 hours before the date of the event and return the fee for that cancelled event.

Event Calendar

Date & Time	Event	Location & Telephone Contact Number	CEU Credits
October 10, 2007 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2007 Medicare Part B Seminar	Holiday Inn 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst • 716-691-8181	4.5
October 16, 2007 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
October 24, 2007 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Marriott Courtyard 11 Excelsior Ave., Saratoga Springs • 518-226-0538	4.5
October 25, 2007 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	HealthNow New York Inc. 30 Century Hill Dr., Latham • 518-220-5700	4.5
November 5, 2007 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2007 Medicare Part B Seminar	Turning Stone Resort 5218 Patrick Rd., Verona • 800-771-7711	4.5
November 13, 2007 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Hilton Garden Inn 6004 Fair Lakes Rd., E. Syracuse • 315-431-4800	4.5
December 12, 2007 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Ask the Contractor Teleconference: Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
December 13, 2007 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
January 24, 2008 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
February 13, 2008 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Ask the Contractor Teleconference: Billing When More Than One Physician is Involved With a Patient's Care	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
February 20, 2008 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Chiropractic Services Teleconference Seminar	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
March 12, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2008 Medicare Part B Seminar	Upstate Medicare Division 33 Lewis Rd., Binghamton • 607-766-6000	4.5
March 25, 2008 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
April 2, 2008 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Ask the Contractor Teleconference: Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
April 16, 2008 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Ambulance Services Teleconference Seminar	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
April 23, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2008 Medicare Part B Seminar	HealthNow New York Inc. 30 Century Hill Dr., Latham • 518-220-5700	4.5
May 8, 2008 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
May 14, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Olean - Venue to be determined*	4.5
May 15, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Hornell - Venue to be determined*	4.5
May 21, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Watertown - Venue to be determined*	4.5
June 12, 2008 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Podiatry Services Teleconference Seminar	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
June 18, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2008 Medicare Part B Seminar	Amherst - Venue to be determined*	4.5
June 19, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2008 Medicare Part B Seminar	Rochester - Venue to be determined*	4.5
July 22, 2008 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0
July 30, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2008 Medicare Part B Seminar	Watertown - Venue to be determined*	4.5
July 31, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	2008 Medicare Part B Seminar	Syracuse - Venue to be determined*	4.5
August 6, 2008 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Ask the Contractor Teleconference: Preventive Services	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0

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Date & Time	Event	Location & Telephone Contact Number	CEU Credits
August 12, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Amherst - Venue to be determined*	4.5
August 13, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Rochester - Venue to be determined*	4.5
September 10, 2008 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Advanced Billing Workshop	Upstate Medicare Division 33 Lewis Rd., Binghamton • 607-766-6000	4.5
September 25, 2008 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Basic Billing Workshop Teleconference	Your Office Telephone 607-766-6000	0

* At this time, we cannot accept registrations for the events that do not yet have venues. We anticipate that the venues will be determined by the end of January 2008 and posted on the "Events" section of our Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/provcaln.html. Once we have posted the venue information, you will be able to register for these events.

You can be notified via email when these events are posted, as well as the latest Medicare updates, by subscribing to the UMD General ListServe, one of our electronic mailing lists. To subscribe to the ListServe, visit the "ListServes" section of our Web site at www.umd.nycpic.com/listserve.html. See page 4 for more information about the UMD ListServes.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)

The Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims for dates of service from July 1 to December 31, 2007, may earn a bonus payment, subject to a cap, of 1.5 percent of total allowed charges for covered Medicare physician fee schedule services.

Prompt submission of claims with quality measures is imperative, as the claims will only be included in the PQRI analysis (and the associated bonus payment calculation) if received by Medicare's National Claims History (NCH) file on or before February 29, 2008.

Complete details regarding PQRI are available on the PQRI Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. Information on the site includes: a PQRI Tool Kit; measures/codes; reporting; analysis and payment; and educational resources – includes a fact sheet, data collection worksheets, MLN Matters articles, and other educational products.

Information about the 2008 PQRI is also available on this Web site. More details about the 2008 PQRI will be posted to the site as they become available.

National Provider Identifier (NPI): Data Dissemination

The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) health care provider data that are disclosable under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will be disclosed to the public by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In accordance with the e-FOIA Amendments, CMS will be disclosing these data via the Internet. Data will be available in two forms:

1. A query-only database, known as the NPI Registry.
2. A downloadable file.

CMS began making FOIA-disclosable NPPES health care provider data available in September 2007. Several documents to help providers understand what the downloadable file will look like are posted on the CMS NPI Web page at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/06a_DataDissemination.asp.

More information and education on the NPI may be found on the CMS NPI Web page at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand. Providers can apply for an NPI online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>, or can call the NPI Enumerator to request a paper application at 800-465-3203.

MEDICARE

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