

February 2005

For more information
800.277.0080

www.mjcpa.com

**MAULDIN
& JENKINS**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, LLC

Mauldin & Jenkins, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

The Healthcare Bulletin

Prosthetics and Orthotics Billing Responsibility

When a hospital orders a prosthetic or orthotic device for a beneficiary during a hospital inpatient stay and the device does not arrive until after the beneficiary is admitted to a SNF, the hospital is responsible for billing. However, when the medical necessity for the prosthetic or orthotic device occurs after the time the Part A resident enters the SNF, the SNF is responsible for the billing of the prosthesis or orthosis. (Source: *Medlearn Matters Number SE0507*)

Electronic Signature Guidance - Clarification

On January 13, 2005, CMS issued Memorandum S&C-05-14 replacing S&C-04-46 dated September 9, 2004. This memorandum states that long term care providers who have the capability to implement electronic signatures for their MDS documentation may do so whether or not the clinical record is entirely electronic.

Updates of HCPCS Codes

CMS has issued Transmittal 449 with the quarterly update to the lists of HCPCS codes that are subject to the consolidated billing provision of the SNF Prospective Payment System. The implementation date is April 4, 2005.

New JCAHO Standard

A new Standard FAQ - Patient Self Glucose Testing - has been added to the Joint Commission website. You can view this FAQ online by visiting: www.jcaho.org/accredited+organizations/index.htm. Click on the link, or copy and paste it into the address bar of your browser. Select the accreditation program link to view the FAQ.

SNF Long Term Care Open Door Forum

The next SNF Open Door Forum is scheduled for February 29, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (EST). To participate by phone, dial 1-800-837-1935 and reference ID: 2865531. An encore recording of the forum can be accessed by calling 1-800-642-1687 and entering Conference ID. This recording will begin two hours after the forum ends and expires after three business days.

Documentation Hint

Avoid the use of ambiguous terms and words, e.g. "good night", "voided sufficient quantity". Be specific.

Medicare Resource Manual

Medicare: Resource Information and Guidelines for the Skilled Nursing Facility is the one resource you need to navigate changing Medicare regulations. This step-by-step PPS operational guide in plain language includes Medicare in the SNF, certification requirements, RUGS III, MDS issues, coverage decisions, denial notices, ABNs, NEMB form, appeals process, and much more. This manual is updated through a subscription service to ensure information remains accurate as regulations change. This manual also comes on a CD at no extra charge. Price: \$295. To order call Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080 or visit the website at mjcpa.com.

Medicare Participation

Please call Darlene Greenhill at 770-541-5429 for consultation, teaching, and training.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this bulletin is for general guidance only. Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information. Mauldin & Jenkins disclaims all responsibility (including negligence) for all consequences of any person acting on, or refraining from acting on, information contained in this bulletin.