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Practice Manager Meetings

Next Meeting:

Thursday

March 9th, 2017 at 8am

Location:

Patio Café—back of Employee Cafeteria (1st Floor)

Topics:

TBD

NEED HELP

- Practice Management problems
- Claims Issues
- Medical Policy Concerns
- Staff Training
- Customer Service

Call Carolee Hildenbrandt at 212-953-1504
 Email: childrenbrandt@goldhealthstrategies.com

The Torch Has Been Passed

As a founding member of SPO and as President for more than 20 years, Dr. Gino Giorgini stepped down in January as the President of the Samaritan Physicians' Organization. In his capacity as President, he served with great dignity, courage, integrity, and vision as he led the organization that serves the Independent Physician Practice.

He leaves a legacy of financial stability with over 275 members with Quality Bonus Programs, Messenger Model contracts, and superb practice support and guidance. Dr. Richard Valinotti, who served more than 10 years as Vice President, will take over an organization of purpose, principle, and direction serving its members.

What Does It Mean to Be a Medicare Non-Participating or Medicare Opt-Out Provider?

Non-participating Medicare doctors are doctors who do not accept Medicare's approved amount as payment in full and who do not routinely take assignment. Like participating doctors, non-participating doctors are required to bill Medicare for care they provide. Medicare will process the bill and reimburse the patient directly for Medicare's share of the cost of care (generally 80% of Medicare's approved amount for most medical services).

The patient needs to pay the non-participating doctors directly for the cost of care, however, in New York State, doctors can only charge 5 percent more (the 'limiting charge') than Medicare's approved amount for certain services. The patient will be reimbursed directly by Medicare. Note also that limiting charge laws do not apply to certain health care providers, such as durable medical equipment suppliers. If these providers (e.g., suppliers) do not accept assignment, their charges are not limited.

Opt-out doctors are doctors who have formally opted out of the Medicare program. Opt-out doctors do not have any limits set on their charges to Medicare patients. Opt-out doctors do not submit any bills to Medicare. If you opt-out of Medicare, the entire cost of care you provide must be paid by the patient.

Very Important Note: The doctor who has Opted-Out **must have** a signed private contract with the patient, stating that the patient understands that he/she is responsible for the full cost of the services. Medicare will not pay the patient for any of the cost of services received from an opt-out doctor.

TCM & CCM

TCM (Transitional Care Management) and **CCM** (Chronic Care Management) are programs that provide additional services to the patient and full payment to the physicians.

Let the IPA help you and your patients achieve success in these programs.

For more information regarding these programs, please feel free to e-mail Carolee Hildenbrandt at childrenbrandt@goldhealthstrategies.com.

For Your Empire Blue Cross Patients

Empire has a 24/7 Nurse-line available around the clock to speak with your patients when you are not available or they aren't sure what to do about the flu, sore throat, or rash.

They have Spanish speaking nurses and translators available 24/7.

Patients can call **(877) TALK2RN** anytime of the day or night.