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Compliance Discussion Group for July 2010

Compliance Hotline

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and click on Hotline. EVMS Health Services Compliance concerns may also be sent to the EVMS Health Services Compliance Office via phone, mail or e-mail.

Contact Us

EVMS Health Services Compliance Office

4111 Monarch Way, Suite 500
Norfolk, VA 23508
Phone 451-6200
www.evmshealthservices.org

James F. Lind, Jr., MBA
Compliance Officer

Kelly Rodeheaver, CMPE
Privacy Officer
Privacy Line 451-6298

Leanne Smith, CHC
Director of Compliance & Internal Audit

Pamela Wheeley, CPC
Compliance & Internal Audit Specialist

CMS Medicare Risk Adjustment Physician Responsibilities

Medicare Advantage organizations are now conducting audits to assess the accuracy and specificity of ICD-9 (diagnosis) codes selected. As published by CMS in its training documentation, the responsibilities of physicians include :

- Accurately reporting ICD-9 diagnosis codes, including secondary diagnoses, to the highest level of specificity;
- Maintaining accurate and complete medical record documentation (ICD-9 codes submitted must be justified with proper documentation);
- Alerting the Medicare Advantage organization to any erroneous data that has been submitted and following the procedures for correcting the erroneous data;
- Reporting claims and encounter data in a timely manner.

In addition to facilitating proper reimbursement, accurate reporting of diagnoses is necessary for education and clinical research. New ICD-9 manuals are published every fall and are provided to the departments in September. New codes **must** be used beginning October 1st.

The [ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting](#) may be found at the beginning of each ICD-9 manual and at the following web site:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd9cm_addenda_guidelines.htm

Minor Patients

In Virginia, a person is considered a minor until he/she reaches the age of 18. Generally, health care providers can release information contained in the medical record of a minor when authorized by the minor's biological or adoptive parent(s) or a judicially appointed legal guardian. A minor is deemed to be an adult and may consent to treatment in four situations.

- For treatment of venereal disease or any infectious disease the Board of Health requires to be reported;
- For birth control, pregnancy or family planning (except sterilization);
- For outpatient treatment of substance abuse;
- For outpatient treatment for mental illness or emotional disturbance.

Parents of minors do have the right to access the records unless the provider determines that access would be detrimental to the child or another person. In that case, the process for *therapeutic privilege* must be followed. Any parent, regardless of whether he or she has custody of the child, is entitled to access to the academic and medical records of his or her minor child unless otherwise ordered by a court.

Compliance Discussion Groups for July 2010

Topic: Insurance Information Session/Updates

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, July 13, Hofheimer Hall 753 and
Thursday, July 15, Hofheimer Hall 752

Time:

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

RSVP by email or phone to Leanne Smith (451-6207).

Bring your lunch