

*There have been several important changes that have occurred since the 10/07 Strategies Newsletter and I feel it necessary to send out a special notice to keep you informed of the changes.*

## MEDICARE

First of all I must remind readers that even though Medicare is a Federal program and Federal rules apply, the Medicare contractor for your state may have different requirements than other states. Please be sure to read all bulletins that your contractor sends to you to determine what the requirements are for your state. Some contractors only send out bulletins by e-mail so if you are not receiving them in your mail box contact them to find out how to receive current notices.

Unfortunately many of the doctors I work with are receiving notices that the claims they have been submitting are being rejected. Most have been rejected due to a problem concerning the NPI numbers. I found that I can submit two identical claims for separate patients and have one processed and the other denied. Go figure. In the meantime,

I have been working hard to find out what the problem is. If you are in California and having a difficult time I strongly suggest you go to the following link and hopefully you will find an answer: [http://www.medicarenhic.com/cal\\_prov/articles/npitipsxwalk\\_0907.pdf](http://www.medicarenhic.com/cal_prov/articles/npitipsxwalk_0907.pdf)

It states that if you are “solo incorporated practitioners (Professional Corporations, LLC, Professional Associations, Corporation)” you have to have an NPI number for your corporation in addition to your individual NPI number. In addition, Medicare now requires that you have a separate PTAN (also known as a legacy number or PIN number) for your corporation. The article explains what you need to do to obtain all these numbers and where they are placed on the CMS-1500 form or on electronic claims.

- **2008 Fee Reductions:** You may have heard the phrase, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away” perhaps that should be, “Medicare giveth and Medicare taketh away.” Earlier this year we were led to believe that we would be seeing an increase in 2008. Now it is certain that there will be another cut. Many contractors have the 2008 fees already posted on their web-sites. A word of caution, based on several years of experience; don’t assume the fees that appear today for 2008 will be the same on 1/1/08. It is recommended that you go to the web-site on 1/2/08 to view the fees as these are usually correct.

- **NPI Box #32 for California**  
**Chiropractors:** Apparently I made an error in the October Strategies and I stand corrected. According to Dr. Dean Harman, D.C. we don’t put an NPI number in this box.

- **Eight Diagnosis:** Each contractor can dictate how they want the eight diagnosis to appear on paper claims. If you are a provider in California it is suggested by the CCA that you list diagnosis 5-8 in box #21 on the CMS-1500 (08/05) to the right of the spaces for #3. and #4. (See following example.)

1. ____.	3. ____.	5.
2. ____.	4. ____.	6.
		7.
		8.

For California providers additional information about the diagnosis requirements can be found in the September 2007 “Chiropractic Services Billing Guide” and the May 2007 “Instructions for CMS-1500 Claim Form”. Both publications can be found at [www.medicarenhic.com](http://www.medicarenhic.com).

- **Blue Cross of California** has now implemented a policy that in some cases they will no longer send payment directly to out-of-network providers. If you are not a provider with BC of California I would recommend making a list of all your patients with Blue Cross of California coverage and call BC to verify what the policy is for that individual patient.

- **Blue Shield of California:** In 2005 Blue Shield advised us that they had hired ACN to conduct a two year research study which would begin in October of that year. Two years have come and gone and Blue Shield has decided to extend the contract with ACN until “July 31, 2008.”

This means that your patients will still need to complete the Patient Health Questionnaire and Indexes and you will continue to send in the Notification Form to ACN until further notice.

## FREE FORMS

In order for CSS to better serve you, please complete a short online survey:

[Chiropractic Success Systems Winter 2007 Survey](#)

As a “Thank You” CSS will email you some of our most popular forms to all people who respond by Friday, December 7, 2007. You are welcome to respond after December 7 but you will not be eligible to receive free forms. The survey will close on December 14, 2007.



*Opening Minds, Hands, & Hearts*

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*Keeping a Watchful Eye on the California Chiropractic Industry*