



Opening Minds, Hands, & Hearts

Chiropractic Success Systems™
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WINTER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

All seminars will be on Thursdays, and will be held at the Fremont Marriott.

Codes, Fees & EOBs

January 27, 2005 9:00-1:00

Practice Building Basics

February 3, 2005 9:00-4:30

Insurance Basics

February 17, 2005 8:30-5:30

Cash Basics & Advanced Collections

February 24, 2005 9:00-4:00

*Dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 18, 2005: Join me at the San Joaquin/Stanslaus CCA district meeting as we "Master Medicare". Contact Dr. Michael Clark for information at (209) 545-8727

January 29, 2005: "Paying is Part of Getting Well" will appear in Dynamic Chiropractic. Please read it!

February 10-12, 2005: Join me when I teach a full day relicensing class on billing and collections at the Karl Parker Seminars in Las Vegas.

Are you still breathing? I know that for some of you the California workers' compensation and Medicare changes in 2004 have caused some special challenges. The key is to keep breathing and to know where to get help.

MEDICARE

- 2005 Deductibles: The Part B annual deductible is now \$110.00.
- 2005 Fees: Good news we have received an increase of approximately 1.5%. If you did not receive a CD from Medicare with your new fees you can find them at www.medicarenhic.com.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

- Medical Provider Networks: These panels go in to effect on 1/1/05. The CCA has been publishing many articles in the journal and CCA Advantage on this topic. They are actively involved in attempting to be sure that your patients and chiropractic gets a vote in how these work. If you are not a member, I strongly encourage you to join today. Not only do they have an excellent web-site but they also have excellent materials available to members only. You can contact them at (916) 648-2727 or www.calchiro.org to join or get additional information.

- QMEs: To request a QME you must complete the IMC Form 106, which is available on line at www.dir.ca.gov/dwc. Remember they will not accept faxes, emails, or telephone requests. All requests must be submitted in writing to the address listed on the form.

- Fee Schedule Changes: effective January 14, 2005, there are some more changes to the OMFS. All of the \$17.53 modalities are back up to \$18.45, and there are many other changes in the physical medicine section as well as other sections. the entire fee schedule (Table A) is available online at:

www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/dwcpropregs/OMFSEmerRegs2TableA.htm.

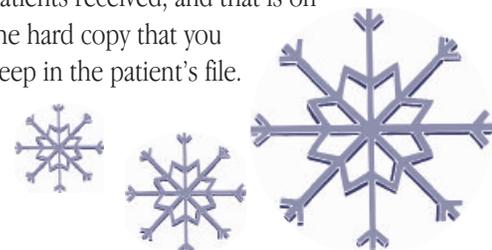
HEALTH INSURANCE

- United Health Care: If you need to resubmit a bill you MUST send the corrected billing along with the "UnitedHealthcare Request for Reconsideration Form". To find your local office go to www.uhc.com. If you do not use this form it will be processed as a duplicate billing. Keep it simple, use this form.
- 97112: If you are receiving denials from UHC, you can resubmit it with the modifier "-59" and the above-mentioned form. The "-59" simply states that it is a "distinct procedural service".
- Diagnosis Codes: Many of you still receiving denials form carriers because you did not use the highest level of specificity (a specific 4th or 5th digit). I suggest you purchase a 2005 ICD-9 book NOW. You can find it at local Chiropractic bookstores, Medical Arts Press, PMIC College, etc... My recommendation is that you get Volumes 1 & 2.

PRACTICE TIP

All patient records must be kept for 7 years from the date they were last in your office.

I would strongly recommend that you NOT destroy copies of any billing records that were sent to insurance carriers or patients. I know some of you say, "it is in my computer, so why should I"? Bottom line is that these records can be lost, destroyed or tampered with. When I have to audit an account, I want to see exactly what the insurance carriers and patients received, and that is on the hard copy that you keep in the patient's file.



Keeping a Watchful Eye on the California Chiropractic Industry