

PARA

Healthcare
Financial
Services

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PARA HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL SERVICES

What's new at PARA

Outpatient PPS Final Rule Released

CMS has announced the release of the OPPTS/ASC final rule for calendar year 2009. It will appear with comments in the November 18 Federal Register. Quality, adverse events, co-payments, and new composite APCs are all a part of what is to come.

The biggest change to APCs appears to be the changes in the way CMS will be paying for imaging services when two or more imaging services are performed in one session. This includes five new composite APCs including:

- *Computed tomography (CT) & computed tomographic angiography (CTA) scans*
- *Ultrasound procedures*
- *MRI & MRA*

If imaging is a material portion of your outpatient services, we can perform an analysis to determine the impact of this change and its affect on your Hospital's Medicare payments.

Taking a page right from the recent inpatient policies, the final rule emphasizes that CMS needs to implement a policy that would not pay for care related to illness or injuries acquired by the patient during a hospital outpatient encounter. They did not propose a plan in this rule but promised it was forthcoming.

Other updates in this rule are the adoption of four new quality measures, bringing the number from the current list of seven to a total of eleven, and are considering an additional eighteen for future adoption. Coinsurance for beneficiaries is continuing its gradual decline to represent 20% of the APC payment rate. Medicare expects 85% of all services will be subject to the 20% coinsurance rate in CY2009.

There are also HCPCS code, APC, and APC status changes that will be implemented on January 1. PARA is loading the changes in the PDE so you will be able to review the

specific line items in your charge master that are impacted by this new rule.

To learn more about what the PARA Data Editor can do to assist your Hospital prepare for the 2009 changes please contact:

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November Webinar

Posting Price Estimates on
your Web Site

November 18
11am PDT

Updating the 2009 CPT Codes
in your CDM

November 20
11am PDT

Sign up now for
myMedicalCosts.com

Patient Price Estimates on your Hospital Website

The National Quality Forum has endorsed guidelines for consumer-focused, Internet based public reporting to support consumer engagement in healthcare.

PARA has been working with Hospital's to help them incorporate these guidelines as they prepare to provide their patients the ability to determine price estimates for healthcare services.

PARA has the technology to build this functionality into your existing Hospital website. We provide the programming, computing power and database for seamless integration and zero disruption to your current web presence. This cost effective process has allowed Hospitals to implement a consumer transparency solution. This external web solution also provides the

Hospital with the ability to modify and update the displayed information through Quote-a-Price within the PARA Data Editor (PDE) so modifications are controlled by your Staff. To learn more about Hospitals are using PARA to improve transparency please contact:

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2008 Update Calendar

Medicare Updates for Q1	Available
2007 Inpatient Charge Comparison Data	Available
Medicare Coding Updates for Q2	Available
2007 Outpatient Charge Comparison Data	Available
Medicare Coding Updates for Q3	Available
2009 Coding Updates	This Month!
2009 HCPCS Updates	December

PARA Data Editor Highlights:

- *2009 CPT Code Updates and Filters*
- *Invalid NDC Filter*
- *2009 HCPCS Codes this month*

Call Mary @ 1-800-999-3332 ext 216
to schedule training