

Pueblo Health Care, Inc. NewsFlash

Health Plan Updates

Editor Ann Bellah

Great-West One-on-Ones Available

A representative from Great-West Healthcare will be available for one-on-one discussions on Wednesday, January 30th, 2008. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Ann at 584-4371.

Humana /ChoiceCare Network

The Humana fee schedule was updated effective December 1, 2007. Participation forms are still missing from over 30 physicians. This form needs to be returned with an accept or decline signature. Second notices were sent to delinquent offices on December 5th. Humana is the first affiliated health plan that we will be implementing our new policy regarding participation forms. **Physicians who have not returned this form will no longer be a participating provider with Humana, effective January 7, 2007.**



Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI)

An updated contract summary sheet and participation form were sent out in December to each physician for a January 1, 2008 effective date for TTCI. In order to continue participation, we must have the participation form on file for each practice and/or provider. We are still missing quite a few forms. Please return these forms to us as soon as possible. Feel free to contact Hayley at 584-4806 to confirm that we have received your form(s) if you are unsure.

First Health

Pueblo Health Care continues discussions with First Health and will keep membership informed.

Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP)

An updated contract summary sheet and participation form were sent out in December to each physician for a January 1, 2008 effective date for RMHP as well. Again, in order to continue participation, we must have the participation form on file for each practice and/or provider. Please return these forms back to us as soon as possible. Hayley will be happy to confirm that we have received your form(s) if needed.

Mission: The mission of Pueblo Health Care, Inc. is to provide our physician partners the highest level of service and support in terms of physician contracting, appropriate educational in-services and administrative support for the Pueblo Market Area. Understanding that maintaining physician contracts is an on-going process, all efforts under the model in which we conduct operations will be focused on communication with our physician partners.

Vision: Our vision is to exceed the expectations of our physician partners in the areas of communication and education, as it relates to Physician Relations, Employer Relations and Payor Relations.

*"Working with Physicians,
for Physicians!"*

Health Plan Updates...cont.

CIGNA Acquires Great-West

CIGNA has recently acquired Great-West Healthcare. The acquisition makes CIGNA Colorado's #4 largest health plan, behind Anthem, United and Aetna. For now, business as usual. We plan to keep our membership informed of any changes to our group agreements with either of these plans.

Educational In-Services

Pueblo Health Care recently offered the following in-services:

September = Going Paperless (Electronic Medical Records) - presented by Ann Hulett (Rocky Mountain Eye Center)

October = Cost Accounting - presented by Mike Baxter, COO, Parkview

November = OSHA Seminar - presented by George Flynn, CIH, OSHA Office



Going Paperless In-Service



Mark Your Calendars...Upcoming In-Services for 2008:

January 22nd and 24th = PHC Annual Presentation

February 15th = Cigna Healthcare In-Service

March 19th = Kaiser Permanente In-Service

If we have scheduled an in-service and you are unable to attend but are interested in the material, please contact Hayley. She will be sure to save a set of any material distributed for you.

Reminder:

It is important if you sign up to attend one of our in-services that you show up. If you have responded but can not attend, please let us know.

National Provider Identifiers

Effective January 1, 2008, National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) will be required to identify primary providers (the Billing and Pay-to-Providers) in Medicare electronic and paper claims. You may continue to use the legacy identifier in these fields as long as you ALSO use the NPI in these fields. No later than May 23, 2008, providers should ensure that all electronic claims status requests sent to Medicare contractors contain ONLY NPI numbers. Legacy provider numbers will not be allowed after the May 23rd deadline. Electronic claims that lack NPIs will be rejected.

Membership Update

Pueblo Health Care membership total is currently at 237. We are excited to announce five recent additions to our network:

Steven Bailey, MD — Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgical Associates

Sarah Felt, DO — Comprehensive Family Care Center

Michael Hansa, MD—Pueblo Cardiology Associates, PC

Nicholas Kurz, DO—Southern Colorado Clinic, PC

M. Susan Zickefoose, MD—Southern Colorado Clinic, PC

Please welcome these new physicians to the community and to the Pueblo Health Care Network!

REMINDER!!

If your office is planning on having any demographic changes, please provide PHC with this new information. For your convenience, we have placed a demographic change form on our website. We will notify all PHC health plan partners of these changes on your behalf. This will help ensure that remittances and correspondence are delivered to the proper address. We will request an updated W9 and CMS 1500 (HCFA) reflecting these changes, as some plans require us to submit these forms with the change request. Also, if you are planning on having a physician join your practice, please notify us as soon as possible so we can send out a packet of information, along with an application, regarding Pueblo Health Care.

Pueblo Health Care Staff Changes

Please welcome Hayley McCaw to Pueblo Health Care. Hayley is our new Administrative Assistant and is replacing Rose Jubert. Rose has moved into a position with Physician Recruiting for Parkview Medical Center. We wish her well in her new position and thank her for all the hard work she has provided for Pueblo Health Care. Rose will be missed but we are excited to have Hayley on board. Please give Hayley a warm welcome when you see her in our office or at our in-services.



Top 300 Codes Report

With every new contract or amendment, PHC sends out a report to every office listing the top codes. Traditionally, the report listed only the "Top 300" requested codes but has since expanded to close to 400 codes. If you have a code (or codes) that your office uses and would like to see listed on this report, please contact Ann so we can include them with the next report.

CMS Selects TrailBlazer for Claims Processing

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has selected TrailBlazer Health Enterprises to administer the claims process for both Part A and Part B fee-for-service Medicare. CMS will be gradually transitioning away from the current claims carrier, Noridian, and encourages providers to continue current activities until further instructions are released.

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We welcome comments and suggestions for our website. Total number of visits to our website are as follows:

September, 2007 = 248

November, 2007 = 180

October, 2007 = 254

December, 2007 (to date) = 133

Tamper Resistant Prescription Pads

Congress recently passed legislation delaying the effective date for the requirement that all paper Medicaid prescriptions are written on tamper-resistant prescription pads. The new deadline is April 1, 2008.

CY08 Physician Fee Schedule

The 10.1 percent decrease in the physician fee schedule that was planned for CY08 has been delayed by six-months, under legislation that passed the Senate on Tuesday, December 18. The decrease in physician reimbursement was expected to take effect on January 1, 2008. Instead, physicians will get a .5 percent raise from Medicare.

Pueblo Health Care Notebooks

Once again, PHC will be delivering 2008 Notebooks inserts with updated information on affiliated health plans. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding these Notebooks or what they are, please contact Ann at 584-4371. We hope to be delivering these direct to the offices in early 2008.

Your Pueblo Health Care Staff:

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