



Medical Society of Delaware

Broadcast Fax

Keeping Your Practice Informed

Please copy and distribute to all office staff:

DATE: April 11, 2014

____ Physicians ____ Clinical ____ Management ____ Billing/Insurance ____ Front Desk

MSD Practice Management Education Series

Join us on **Tuesday, May 13, 2014** from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at MSD in Newark, DE (webcasting throughout the state) for the next session in the MSD Practice Manager Education Series, "**Insurance Payer Workshop**". Receive important 2014 updates from major insurance payers to include Medicare, Delaware Medicaid, Highmark Delaware, Coventry, DPCI and United Healthcare. Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/msdinsurancepayerworkshop> or contact Lynn Robinson at 302-224-5198.

CMS Releases Individual Physician Medicare Data

On Wednesday the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began releasing individual physician and certain other health care professionals' Medicare Part B data. CMS released information on services delivered in 2012 including the number and type of health care services, count of unique beneficiaries treated, average submitted charges, and the average amount Medicare paid for those services. This move is a result of a recent court decision that reversed an injunction that previously prevented CMS from making the data available to the public. Similar information has been available for several years on Medicare hospital payments. Physicians were not given the opportunity to review their data for accuracy prior to publication. View information on Medicare payments by state at <http://tinyurl.com/medicarepaymentsbystate>.

Practices That Use Windows XP Might Be Jeopardizing HIPAA Compliance

Physician practices that use Windows XP software could be putting their HIPAA compliance at risk. Microsoft said it stopped supporting Windows XP as of April 8, 2014, which places the operating system at risk for HIPAA and security breaches. Read more at <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/end-support-help>.

To stay in compliance with HIPAA and to ensure the practice's patient e-PHI is protected, physicians and administrators need to conduct an analysis that would assess any potential risks and unprotected areas of e-PHI. This may require practices to upgrade their operating systems or replace computers that store, maintain, or transmit e-PHI. According to an FAQ on the Office of the Inspector General's (OGI) website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/faq/securityrule/2014.html>, the HIPAA security rule does not specify minimum requirements for personal computer operating systems, but it does mandate requirements for information systems that contain e-PHI. A well-documented HIPAA risk assessment must be completed to document all out-of-compliance computers, where and if they are attached to the network, and the timeframe to replace or upgrade it. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/securityriskassessment>.

MSD members have access to resources to help them comply with HIPAA rules and properly protect their patients' personal information. Contact Betty Sue Wilkinson at 302-366-1023 or bettrysue.wilkinson@medsocdel.org for more information.

NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is kicking off the first national highly visible enforcement campaign for distracted driving being carried out April 10-15, **U Drive. U Text. U Pay.** The campaign is to raise public awareness about the consequences of texting and driving. The focus is on the idea that "If you're texting, you're not driving." Share the 30 second distracted driving video at <http://www.distraction.gov/> with your staff and anyone you know that has a mobile phone and encourage them to take the pledge not to drive distracted. And by reminding co-workers that using a hand-held device while driving is a primary offense, the best way to avoid the consequences is to simply put the phone down. Read more at <http://www.distraction.gov/content/take-action/employers.html>.

HIPAA SECURITY RULE COMPLIANCE

The US Department of Health and Human Services released a Security Risk Assessment (SRA) tool that assists small- to mid-sized practices to conduct risk assessments under the HIPAA Security Rule. The tool assesses potential risks and vulnerabilities to electronic protected health information (ePHI) and security measures to reduce risks and vulnerabilities. Conducting a risk assessment is a requirement of the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs. Bruce Armon, Esq. of the Philadelphia law firm Saul Ewing, LLP has provided an overview at <http://tinyurl.com/hipaarulecompliance> and links to the information on the HealthIT.gov website.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 26 - Delaware Military Medicine Symposium, John M. Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Register at <http://www.delamed.org/milmed/>. **This activity have been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.**

May 3 - 2014 NAMIWalk Delaware, Wilmington Riverfront, Registration starts at 8:30 am, Register at www.namiwalks.org/Delaware.