

PM Update



Bringing relevant issues to practice managers

Spring 2013

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1. Licensure Fee Saga Ends with Docs "Stuck with the Bill"

You may have heard a collective sigh of relief last week as Illinois physicians learned that the medical licensure issue appeared to be over, followed by a collective groan about the hike in licensure fees.

Here's how it went down: Illinois legislators voted last Thursday to pass S.B. 622 and Governor Quinn signed the measure the next day. This legislation will increase medical licensure fees - not only to cover the Medical Disciplinary Fund, designated for licensure and medical discipline, **but to "payback" monies the state previously swept from this medical fund.**

Because the sweeps drained the fund, employees from the medical unit had to be reassigned, causing a *backlog* in medical license processing in Illinois.

If you handle physician recruitment and/or related paperwork for your office, please be advised that this legislation will initiate a fund transfer, which will allow for rehiring of the 18 employees who were laid off in January.

Licensure fee increases

The legislation increases medical licensing fees for the next two, three-year licensure cycles from \$300 to \$690 for in-state renewals, from \$600 to \$1,380 for out-of-state renewals, to \$700 for first-time applicants and to \$230 for residency training permits. After the next two licensure cycles, the fee will drop to \$500 for first-time applicants, \$501 for in-state license renewals and to \$750 for out-of-state renewals.

Future General Assemblies must be held accountable and **never again** raid the Medical Disciplinary Fund for purposes *unrelated* to physician discipline and licensure.

2. How to Prepare for a Practice Assessment

It takes a team effort to manage the risks associated with running a medical practice. So if your physician is planning to sign up for a practice assessment, why not join him or her at ISMIE Mutual's risk management session, [Preparing for Your Practice Assessment](#), **March 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Oak Brook**.

An assessment offers a unique opportunity to help fine-tune your practice systems and reduce your risk. Here's another big bonus: Policyholders who successfully complete a practice assessment may earn a 5% premium discount for two policy years!

Please note: A practice assessment must be requested by the priority date of April 1 to guarantee completion in 2013.

[Register now.](#)

Also, check out these convenient webinars:

- [Preparing for your Office-Based Practice Assessment](#); **March 19 at noon**
- [Preparing for your Anesthesiology Practice Assessment](#); **March 22 at noon**

You may also [access recordings of previous webinars](#). Each program is about an hour in length, and includes both the audio and video from the live presentation.

Questions? Please contact ISMIE's Risk Management Division at 800-782-4767 ext. 3300 or [by email](#).

Login assistance

If you are a representative requesting a username and password on a policyholder's behalf, please complete and submit the [Username and Password Request Form](#).

3. Save the Dates: ICD-10 Workshops Coming this Summer

As you know by now, the compliance deadline for the new ICD-10-CM code set has been delayed until Oct. 1, 2014.

The new code set will jump from approximately 13,000 codes under ICD-9-CM to 68,000 codes. **Staff who are involved with billing and coding will need significant training.**

While 2014 may seem like a long way off, it's not too soon to begin preparing for the implementation of this code set. What better way to get started than by planning to attend ICD-10 workshops taking place this summer, being sponsored by the Illinois State Medical Society.

July 17 - Oak Brook

August 7 - Springfield

The workshops will offer CME and AHIMA continuing education credits.

Seating is limited [so register today!](#)

Stay tuned for more info in the June 12 edition of *PM Update*.

4. Quick Tip: Confidentiality "Danger Zones"

The potential for breaches of patient confidentiality exist in every office. You can help reduce liability for your physician by following these strategies:

- Conversations and phone calls that include confidential information should be made only in "quiet zones" away from patients.
- Patients must not be able to overhear conversations in adjacent exam rooms.
- The overall office layout should ensure that confidential conversations cannot be overheard by other patients.
- When in hallways or elevators, staff should never discuss patients.

Finally, patient information must never be disclosed without the patient's written authorization.

To release patient information, access the [Model Authorization for Release of Confidential Health Information](#).

For information on medical records, access [A Physician's Guide to Medical Record Access and Retention - 2012](#).

5. Upcoming Education

Practice Management days are coming ...

Attention practice managers/staff and physicians: ISMIE Mutual is offering practice manager days across the state starting this summer. The live, day-long program will include the following sessions:

- HIPAA Update
- Improving Employee Performance with Job Descriptions
- Disruptive Employees and How They Hurt Your Practice
- Patient Satisfaction: Getting to the Bottom Line

[Staff registration](#)

Physician registration

- [June 18 - Hoffman Estates](#)
- [June 27 - Oak Brook](#)

Lunch and learn: EHR incentives, Illinois' health info exchange

Grab your lunch and join ISMIE's webinar, [EHR Incentives and the Illinois Health Information Exchange](#), **March 20 from noon to 1 p.m.**

Learn about the financial incentives available from Medicare and Medicaid for EHR adopters, and the latest developments on the Illinois Health Information Exchange, which will allow physicians to transfer medical information securely and electronically with other health care professionals and patients.

This webinar is geared for both practice managers and physician policyholders.

[Register online today.](#)

6. ISMIE Liability Coverage Not Just for Docs - You're Covered, Too!

Did you know that your professional liability risk is covered under your ISMIE insured employer's policy?

Clerical employees, nurses (other than advanced practice nurses), technicians and medical assistants are covered automatically by ISMIE Mutual - **at no additional charge.**

If you have questions, please send an email to the ISMIE's Underwriting Division or call 800-782-4767.

Coverage for allied health personnel requires a separate premium charge and a completed [application for coverage.](#)