

PM Update



Bringing relevant issues to practice managers

Summer 2014

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1. It's All About Transparency: Physicians' Medicare Data Released to Public

Now that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released information to the public about medical payments made to Medicare physicians, what does that mean for your workplace?

A staggering amount of data is available and includes Medicare payment info for 880,000 individuals and organizations nationwide for more than 5,000 procedures for 2012.

There's much more: The online info also provides the physician's name, the practice name, license type, address, Medicare participation status, Medicare amount, average charges, average Medicare reimbursement, services provided by CPT code, and even patient data.

What should you do?

Your medical office can review its quality data, monitor its Quality and Resource Use Reports (QRURs) when it comes out later this year, and challenge any data that is not accurate.

Remember - the data that you report to CMS will automatically feed this mammoth federal database, so be sure it is accurate.

[Learn more.](#)

2. Is License Renewal Still Stuck on Your Doctor's "To Do" List?

ISMIE Mutual policyholders can call us for fast assistance with medical license renewal, avoid the credit card convenience fee, beat the renewal deadline of **July 31** and check that important task off the list.

The number to call is **800-632-7478** during regular business hours **8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

Here's how physicians can prepare beforehand:

- Have ready the PIN noted on the postcard mailed from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) or your medical license number, Social Security Number and date of birth.
- Have a credit card handy: The cost to renew a three-year medical license is \$690. Controlled substance licenses, at a cost of \$15 per location, should also be renewed at this time.

If renewing online, don't forget the controlled substance license

- When processing a medical license renewal on [IDFPR's website](#), physicians must indicate on the bottom of the page that they'd also like to renew their controlled substance license.

Physicians who did not should [log back into IDFPR's website](#), enter their license number and PIN, and then scroll to "Renewal of Controlled Substance license" at the bottom of the page.

3. Make it Official: Medical Staff Must be Certified or Licensed to Meet Compliance for Stage 2 Meaningful Use

Does your medical staff enter computerized patient orders via EHR? If so, all must be certified or licensed in order for your medical office to meet the requirements of the [Stage 2 Meaning Use Incentive Program](#).

Even if staff are experienced and have thorough on-the-job training, without certification, your medical practice will not be in compliance with this program.

Here's how to get certified

The following organizations are among those offering certification for medical staff:

- [American Association of Medical Assistants \(AAMA\)](#)
- [American Medical Technologists \(AMT\)](#)
- [American Registry of Medical Assistants \(ARMA\)](#)

Put your medical staff on the path to certification today!

Patient Safety First!

4. To Prescribe Meds, Clinical Psychologists Must Meet Certain Requirements

Due to the efforts of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), a bill allowing Illinois clinical psychologists the limited authority to prescribe medications to treat mental illness was amended to increase and intensify its education and training requirements.

Biomedical education, clinical training and physician oversight are now cornerstones of the revamped bill and represent significant improvement over the minimal training requirements contained in the psychologists' original prescribing proposal.

ISMS worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Illinois Psychiatric Society to successfully push back this dangerous proposal. A generous grant from the American Medical Association bolstered lobbying efforts and was key to successfully limiting this scope of practice.

The amended bill (S.B. 2187) passed in the General Assembly and now goes to Governor Quinn for signature.

For more details, check out the [June 3 edition of ISMIE-news](#).

5. Ditch the Checkbook, Stamps ... Pay Premiums Online

Good practice management is about working smarter, not harder. So be smart: Pay premiums online, save on stamps and ensure the payment won't get lost in the mail.

The balance is updated, accepted and applied to your physician's account in just a few clicks - with no added fee. Complete the whole process in three easy steps:

1. Log in to www.ismie.com.
2. Click on "Pay Your Premium" on the right side of the screen.
3. Follow the ensuing directions.

Join hundreds of medical practices already enjoying the convenience of online payments.

Questions? Please contact the Underwriting Division at 800-782-4767 ext. 3350 or [by email](#).