

Billing Update Hot Topics

January 2018

**Melodie Bingham,
CPA**

Stephanie Eaves

Rhonda Houchens

Sarah McIntosh

Robin Parker, CPA

Sharon Williams

**PO Box 263
Russellville, KY 42276**

Therapy Caps:

As of today, Congress has not addressed the “extender payment policies”....therapy caps. Therefore, SNFs are operating under therapy caps without ANY exceptions (KX) based on patient need. There is a hard cap of \$2,010 for PT/SLP and \$2,010 for OT. An Advanced Beneficiary Notice should be issued to any beneficiary that reaches the therapy cap. For a copy of the current ABN, follow the link <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/ABN.html>

CMS is holding claims affected by the therapy caps exceptions process for up to 20 days. CMS is not holding any other claims except those affected by the therapy caps. <https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/All-Fee-For-Service-Providers-Center.html>

Medicaid Level of Care Issues

Numerous facilities are having issues with their Medicaid Accounts Receivable increasing. One of the top Medicaid claim denials is Level of Care not being on file. SNF's have endured the Medicaid pending process to then discover that the claim is denied for Level of Care not being on file. KAHCF had a Billing Work Group conference call and Lee Guice with Department for Medicaid Services was in attendance. The level of care situation was addressed with Lee. Lee requested that level of care issues be sent to her email address lee.guice@ky.gov, include a subject line of Level of Care.

Being Proactive with Medicaid

Delays in the Medicaid application process are very costly for nursing facilities. Each month of Medicaid pending puts over \$5,000 of revenue at risk. More often facilities are taking on the responsibility of assisting families during the Medicaid process. Below are just a few recommendations for lowering the risk of lost revenue.

Offer to take care of the Medicaid application process for the beneficiary
Offer to submit the application online together from the facility
Offer to assist the family sort through their paperwork
Suggest that the family make the nursing facility the representative payee
Communicate with the family that the beneficiary will be responsible for the Private pay balance if the Medicaid application is denied
Send a monthly statement to the family for the Private pay balance

Phone: 270-726-4033

Fax: 270-726-8069

accountants@hargisandassociates.com

www.hargisandassociates.com