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Ortho News This Week

L.A. Care partially rescinds recoupment requests



CMA/COA

October 18, 2018

Between June and August of this year, L.A. Care issued a large number of overpayment requests to physicians. According to L.A. Care, it was requesting refunds on overpaid Medi-Medi claims. However, some of the requests were for very old claims, dating back to 2012. The California Medical Association (CMA) and the **California Orthopaedic Association (COA)** raised concerns with L.A. Care about the timeliness of some of the refund requests, as California's Knox Keene act limits plans' ability to request refunds to 365 days from the date of payment, except in cases of fraud or misrepresentation.

After review, L.A. Care [rescinded the overpayment requests](#) on claims that were non-compliant with the 365-day timeframe. L.A. Care is also [refunding payments](#) already made by physicians or payments that were automatically recouped by L.A. Care on claims older than 365 days. Any physician appeals contesting the 365-day timeframe will be closed.

However, for claims paid within 365 days from the date of the overpayment request, L.A. Care still expects reimbursement. In the letters, L.A. Care states it will provide physicians with an updated list of claims it is pursuing for recoupment within the 365-day time period within the next 45 calendar days. Physicians will have 60 calendar days from the date of the re-issued overpayment notices to refund L.A. Care. Failure to do so will result in automatic recoupments.

Physicians with questions can contact Gladys Oswell, Payment Integrity Unit at goswell@lacare.org, CMA's Reimbursement Help Line at (888) 401-5911 or economicservices@cmadocs.org or **COA at (916) 454-9884**.



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New patient or not?



KarenZupko & Associates

Question:

One of our providers serves as a team physician for a local high school. I was wondering how to report services if he sees an athlete on the sideline for an injury and then the athlete is seen later for the same or a new problem by him or another member of our group within a three year time period. No CPT code or bill was generated for services on the field. Is it a new patient visit or an established patient visit when the patient is seen in the office? [READ MORE](#)

Physician compensation



KarenZupko & Associates

Today's blog addresses compensation and benefits; a complicated subject of upmost interest to our clients. The blog touches on major points to consider regarding compensation and benefits. Physicians and physician groups must consult with compensation experts and

legal counsel to insure that they understand the best possible, regulatory compliant compensation model for their needs. There are pros and cons and multiple variations of each model. [READ MORE](#)

Physician resistance to CMS proposal for virtual check-ins



Center for Connected Health Policy

On July 12, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposal of revisions to the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for CY 2019. The proposal includes reimbursement for a virtual check-in service intended to “restore the doctor-patient relationship” by motivating physicians to communicate with patients outside of the office. The calls would help patients decide if they need to schedule an in-person appointment. CMS proposes to reimburse physicians \$14 per five to ten-minute check-in call, and according to a Kaiser Health News article, physicians worry that patients would be required to pay 20% in cost-sharing. [READ MORE](#)

Apple teams up with Zimmer Biomet to support postoperative recovery



Becker's Hospital Review

Apple and medical device company Zimmer Biomet launched a new smartwatch app — and an associated clinical study — to support postoperative recovery for two major surgeries: hip and knee replacements. The app, dubbed Zimmer Biomet mymobility, connects patients with their surgical care teams through an interface on the Apple Watch. Surgeons can push education and therapy reminders directly to a patient's smartwatch while they are preparing for or recovering from a joint surgery. The app also delivers patient-reported data and activity information from the Apple Watch to physicians, so they can monitor a patient's progress. [READ MORE](#)

AI Bots Democratize Medicine: You are more transparent than you think



The Stone Clinic

Human doctors traditionally sit in dark rooms and interpret medical diagnostic images. A radiologist's report is then given to the practicing physician, who merges the objective digital image interpretations with the more subjective clinical presentation and exam. Often there is more information read by the radiologists than is relevant to the physician and patient; at other times, important information is missed. In a knee MRI, for example, there may be degeneration of a meniscus tissue reported—but this finding has no importance to a patient with bone-on-bone arthritis, in need of a joint replacement. [READ MORE](#)

COA Report

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