



## **e-Blast January 2010**

### **Is IGG Medicare Reimbursement Giving You A Headache?**



Many providers continually struggle with reimbursement challenges for IGG therapy. If you are one of those providers, you are not alone. Our goal is to provide you with some high level information that will help your staff navigate through the reimbursement abyss.

#### What is IGG?

IGG is Immune Globulin that is made from pooled plasma collected from thousands of donors containing antibodies against a broad spectrum of bacteria and viruses. It is also known as known as IVig, IGIV, Immune globulin, and Immune globulin Intravenous. IGG provides treatment for three main categories of illnesses:

- Primary Immune Deficiencies
- Autoimmune Neuromuscular Disorders
- Certain Rheumatologic Conditions

#### Medicare IGG Guidelines: (subject to change)

- Two Policies: (LCD A47177 & LCD L27261)
  1. External Infusion Pump Policy
    - Code J1562 only
    - Only for subcutaneous administration
  2. IGG policy (codes J1459, J1561, J1566, J1568, J1569, J1572, J1573, J2791)
- Covered Diagnosis Codes (same for both policies)
  - 279.04 - Congenital Hypogammaglobulinemia
  - 279.05 - Immunodeficiency with increased IGM
  - 279.06 - Common Variable Immunodeficiency
  - 279.12 - Wiscott-Aldrich Syndrome
  - 297.2 - Combined Immunity Deficiency

For additional details please see:

[http://www.advantage-reimbursement.com/tool\\_medicare\\_igg.doc](http://www.advantage-reimbursement.com/tool_medicare_igg.doc)

#### **Quote of the Month**

"I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but I can still do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do." – Helen Keller

#### **Tip of the Month:**

If you are sending attachments to your payer through NovoLogix (formerly ACM) and they are continually stating they are not receiving the docs/attachments, reach out to NovoLogix to resolve with the payer. Often the payer does not train their claims processors properly to look for the docs although they made agreements with NovoLogix to NOT send the docs but just store on the NovoLogix site. Don't back down when the payer cannot find your attachments and continue to re-send, resend, re-send. Rather you should resolve, resolve, resolve! Good luck!

## ARL Attends the Massachusetts Public Hearing on Medicaid



On December 16, 2009 six members of the ARL Reimbursement Center joined forces with NEMED (New England Medical Equipment Dealers) at the Massachusetts Public Hearing on Medicaid Reimbursement for Durable Medical Equipment. They heard over 40 testimonials from suppliers, vendors, manufacturers and most importantly patients themselves. For all who attended it reminded them of what they do and why. After the meeting many attendees walked to the State House in Boston for a demonstration. Seen here on the left is the group of ARL members who braved the weather on a cold winter's day.

Here is what Brian Simonds, Director of Baystate Home Infusion and Respiratory Therapy had to say about the event :

*"I want to thank the staff of Advantage Reimbursement for coming to the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance meeting to lend their voice and analysis to the proposed reduction in Medicaid rates. Advantage was able to send down six staff members on a very cold December day to help us protest at the hearing and in front of the Capital Building in Boston. It is good to know that we have a business partner who understands the reimbursement environment we are living in and are ready to help us bring needed information to the people who make reimbursement decisions. It was because of a great showing of support from the patients we serve and other companies in the industry that we were able to get a delay in the lower rates and be able to schedule further meetings with the Division to discuss alternatives. While lending support to the DME providers in Massachusetts, Advantage who has been a partner of ours since 1996 was also able to achieve a record cash collection month for our organization."*

*Brian Simonds, MBA, RRT*

*Director*

*[Baystate Home Infusion and Respiratory Services](#)  
Springfield, MA*

For additional information please see:

[http://www.advantage-reimbursement.com/aboutNews\\_pr012510.htm](http://www.advantage-reimbursement.com/aboutNews_pr012510.htm)

## How Well Do You Know Your Colleagues/Reimbursement Partners?

With over 50 staff members at the ARL Reimbursement Center it is difficult to choose which employee should be highlighted next in our e-Blast newsletter. Looking back on 2009 and the many great things that different employees have done throughout the year, we decided to select one of our team members who participated in special events in the last two months of the year. In the "spirit of giving" this employee clearly understands the importance of giving back both to the community and to her career.

## Behind the Curtain: Introducing Beatrice Guzman (aka "BB")



BB began her career with ARL in June of 2005. Prior to joining our team she was a claims processor for Aetna. On a personal note, she has a 10 year old daughter, loves to travel and would like to skydive someday. She is originally from Dominican Republic and has relatives in many states to include Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Miami and Puerto Rico. She speaks fluent Spanish which enables her to easily communicate with many of our Spanish speaking patients.

In the "spirit of giving", BB joined her family in New York on Thanksgiving Day to provide meals for the homeless. Her family cooked Thanksgiving dinner

at her father's home, packed up individual servings including utensils, napkins and other miscellaneous paper goods and drove to various homeless shelters throughout Manhattan to feed the hungry. This act of kindness was inspired by her Dad who has been feeding the homeless for the past 5 years. This was the first time that BB was able to get away with her daughter to participate in this wonderful event. Coming away from the experience BB advised "I count my blessings for everything I have."

Additionally, BB volunteered to attend the Massachusetts Finance hearing in December on behalf of her client and her company to protest the Massachusetts Medicaid cuts for DME reimbursement. Recognizing that this was a meaningful cause, she joined the others in bitter cold temperatures to march in the protest at the State House in Boston.

Besides the positive reinforcement she receives from helping patients and clients with reimbursement issues, what else does BB appreciate about working for ARL? She enjoys her co-workers, is very comfortable with her home infusion billing and collections expertise especially with Medicare and likes the flexibility that ARL offers. "The flexibility is very conducive to family life."

### **Mediware Monthly News Update - January**

As part of our integration activities, we want to keep you in the loop on the activities of our peers and colleagues at Mediware. Go to <http://www.mediware.com/index.php/In-the-Loop/> to read the January edition of their customer newsletter. Email Laura Booth ([laura.booth@mediware.com](mailto:laura.booth@mediware.com)) if you would like to be put on the distribution list.

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