



e-Blast November 2009

Happy Thanksgiving

We don't give thanks often enough for the many gifts we receive on a daily basis. We recognize that we work in a very special industry and are fortunate to be joined by so many caring, compassionate people who are willing to devote their lives to patient care and the quality of life. The ARI team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our clients and colleagues a very Happy Thanksgiving.



HOT TOPIC: PECOS

What is PECOS?: PECOS stands for Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System. It is a CMS program which requires assures that physician and non-physician practitioners and DME/POS suppliers bill for items or services **only** when those items or services are ordered by physician or non-physician practitioners who are eligible to order/refer such services. Physician and non-physician practitioners must be enrolled in the Medicare Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) and for the type/specialty eligible to order/refer services for which you bill on behalf of

Medicare beneficiaries.

What is the effective date of PECOS?

Phase one became effective in early October 2009. During phase one a warning will be issued on the electronic claim response for all claims submitted to Medicare with Physicians who were not enrolled in PECOS. During phase one, claims will be processed and payment will be issued as normal.

Phase two which was supposed to become effective in early January 2010 will be delayed until April 5, 2010 (subject to change). When phase two becomes effective CED1 will **reject** claims in which the Physicians are not actively enrolled in PECOS **OR** if the format of the MD does not match their required format. Your claim WILL NOT even make it to your regional jurisdiction (A, B, C or D) and no payment or denial will be issued. Please note that the physician name must be in ALL caps or the claim will be rejected.

There have been many issues identified including: Physicians that have registered for PECOS, but are not appearing the PECOS data base.

For additional information please refer to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp

Quote of the Month

"If you can see it, you can achieve it." *Unknown, Source*



Tip of the Month: How long are ABN's good for?

ABN's (Advance Beneficiary Notices) are good for only 1 year.

The ABN becomes invalid after 1 year and patients are not liable for charges if the ABN has expired. Make sure you have a process in place to ensure that your ABN's are current.



Halloween – Taken from Irish and English Traditions

In the second half of the nineteenth century many immigrants came to America and helped to popularize the tradition of Halloween nationally. Halloween became the 2nd largest commercial holiday of the year. In keeping with the tradition many of the ARI colleagues dressed up in various costumes. The annual Halloween festivities were enjoyed by all.

How Well Do You Know Your Colleagues/Reimbursement Partners?

When our first introduction to a person is via the telephone we create an image in our minds of what this person might look like and what type of person they are. When we finally meet them in person they typically look very different from what we had envisioned and we find that their interests sometimes surprise us. For those who have had the pleasure of working with Diane you may never have imagined that she is very shy, has a remarkable competitive nature, speaks fluent French and is the coach for a 5 and 6 year old co-ed basketball team at a local Sports Zone in her community. What other interesting things did we find out about Diane when she was interviewed for this edition of e-Blast? Read on...



Behind the Curtain: Introducing Diane Maxim

Diane joined the ARI team in 1997 and proved that she was a quick learner and was easily able to multi-task. She left ARI for a brief period of time to pursue other interests but found that she missed the challenges and friendships she had enjoyed at ARI. She returned to ARI in 2000 and has experienced continual career advancements as she went from File Clerk in 1997 to Supervisor in 2005.

Diane was born and raised in New England and makes her home in New Hampshire where she is able to enjoy swimming, skating, soccer and

going to the park with her husband, 6 year old son and 2 ½ year old daughter. Diane tells us that some of the advantages of living in New Hampshire are being able to raise her family in an environment surrounded by beautiful apple orchards, pumpkin patches and stables for horses. Additionally, family cook-outs are a must for the Maxim family in the summer.

When we asked Diane about what she liked best about working for ARI, her response was, "everyday challenges, helping people understand the industry, training new employees, learning

new software and all the friendships I have formed". She also mentioned that she has really enjoyed teaming up with her manager, Jacqui and has learned so much from her".



Thank you for attending our Webinar

ARI conducted its first Webinar entitled "Infusion Basics – IV Industry Training" on November 20th. The content was intended for basic home infusion. We received great feedback and would like to thank our attendees for joining us. One attendee replied "I will attend all the Webinars you offer as they are quite helpful." We are planning to provide future Webinars on more advanced topics and will provide you with the date, time and more detailed information on our website at: <http://www.advantage-reimbursement.com>. We do apologize for the technical difficulties we experienced and hope that you will join us in future Webinars.

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