

NPI Numbers

Physicians and group practices must remember their NPI number now. The NPI numbers **MUST** be placed in the correct fields for all Medicare claim submissions by March 1, 2008. Not only does your billing department/company need to know the NPI numbers for all physicians and the group, the numbers **MUST** be correctly entered into your billing system. In addition, the clearinghouse used must record the numbers correctly and also reproduce the numbers in the correct fields for all claims submissions.

For our tracking clients, if you receive notices of claims rejections or denials due to NPI numbers, please notify our office and fax over the denial/rejection notice. We will verify that the NPI listings are correct and work with you to identify and correct any software/clearinghouse issues.



We'd Like to Hear from You!

If you have particular topics you'd like us to cover in upcoming newsletters, please contact us at 215-364-2187 or mmcfarla@addvalinc.com. We'd appreciate your input! And, don't forget to take advantage of AddVal's 5% discount on new contracts before 2/29/08.

We hope you're off to a great start in 2008!

Address Changes

If you are planning on relocating your office, it is very important to let us know as soon as possible. In many cases, it can take the insurers between 4 and 6 weeks to update their systems. In the meantime, all your checks and notices will be mailed to your old address. Keep in mind that some of the insurers like Railroad Medicare obtain their data from Medicare, so until the Medicare system is updated, all the subsystems will be incorrect as well. Provider directories and Web updates are sometimes done yearly so it is important to get any address changes submitted as soon as possible in advance of your actual move date.



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ADDVAL Additions

Unrivaled Medical Credentialing Expertise

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HIPAA is NOT a Four-Letter Word!

In which situations would the privacy rule not apply?

Using Hospitalist or House Physicians?

Hospitals can increase revenues by setting up physicians as a hospital-based group practice.

NPI Numbers

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Address Changes

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Malpractice Coverage

What do you need to submit to insurance providers?

A New Beginning...

As 2008 gets underway, AddVal looks forward to continuing our partnerships from previous years and embracing new opportunities. We sincerely wish you and your practice the best in the coming year!

In addition, we hope you find useful information in our first newsletter of 2008. AddVal keeps abreast of industry issues and will strive to include relevant topics in each quarterly newsletter.

HIPAA is NOT a Four-Letter Word!

Time and time again patients and practices are encountering "HIPAA" rules as the reason why basic, quality patient care cannot be delivered. Many times this assessment is in error. For example, when you take your adult child to the hospital for the birth of your grandchild, there is NO HIPAA violation for the staff to provide you with updates on the new mother and baby. In addition, medical practices CAN (and should) send reminders to patients about follow-up appointments. "The privacy rule does not consider such activity marketing, because it is related to treatment."



Winter Special!

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Using Hospitalist or House Physicians?

More and more hospitals are employing physicians as hospitalists and house physicians. Choosing to set up these physicians as a hospital-based group practice will increase hospital revenues. The first step in the process is to set up the group with the largest payers – Medicare and the commercial payers. Once this is accomplished, each physician needs to be credentialed with the largest payers and then linked to the hospital-based group.

With an average completion of 87 days, AddVal establishes the group practice and links the physicians to that group for payment. Our experience and contacts significantly streamlines the process so it is completed quickly and efficiently.

In this time of decreasing revenues and reimbursements, this revenue source cannot be ignored.

Malpractice Coverage

One of the crucial elements for initial and continuing credentials for physicians is their malpractice coverage. Insurers verify this coverage by examining the malpractice insurance face sheet for: Physician's name, coverage amounts, dates of coverage and specialty.

A physician joining your practice must have coverage effective for the start date with your practice in the coverage amounts specified by your State. Frequently, practices submit to us their invoice for the malpractice insurance instead of the insurance face sheet. If the amount you are paying for the coverage is listed on the form you submitting to us, this is the bill, NOT the insurance face sheet. In addition, some malpractice insurance companies issue "binders" instead of face sheets in advance of the malpractice insurance coverage. The face sheet, not the binder is needed for credentialing.

