



Providing Ambulance Billing Service to New England Since 1984

NEWSLETTER

from the desk of Rick Martin

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September 2009



THE COMSTAR TEAM WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW CLIENTS

- *Holden, MA
- *Narragansett, RI
- *Hampstead, NH
- *South Hadley MA FD#2
- *Warren, RI
- *Central Falls, RI
- *Athol, MA
- *North Branford, CT
- *Gardiner, ME

FLU SHOT BILLING

Medicare pays for flu shots administered by an ambulance provider. If you are considering or already providing flu shots via you ambulance service and wish to receive reimbursement from Medicare, Contact our Billing Manager, Jane Schaller for further information

RUN REPORT SUGGESTIONS

- * List the license level of each crew member involved in the transport on your PCR or EPCR.
- * If you use EPCR software, make the signature field required. If not received, auto-default the field to "PUTS" (patient unable to sign) instead of leaving the field blank.

This newsletter is not intended as legal advice. Consult an attorney for specific legal advice concerning your situation.

NO CHANGE IN AMBULANCE AIF FOR 2010

The Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for 2010 will be **zero** percent because the 2009 Consumer Price Index (Urban) from June to June actually when down. If there is no legislation that goes into effect on January 1, 2010, the Medicare rates for ambulance will be affected as follows:

- No inflation update(as noted above)
- Loss of temporary adjustment of 2% (urban) and 3% (rural).
- Loss of 22.6% temp adjustment for the super rural base rate
- Region (higher) fee schedule fully phased out.

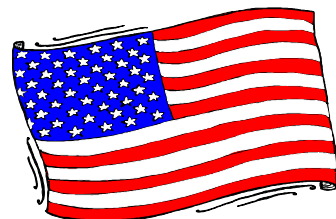
Combined, these represent a potential net reduction in the Medicare fee schedule in 2010 vs 2009. The true change won't be known until rates are published in December 2009.

REPORT MILEAGE TO THE NEAREST 10th

CMS is considering requiring that mileage be reported to the nearest 10th of a mile. Best practice would be to start doing it now. It will likely be required by CMS in the future.



*America
Land of the Free
Home of the Brave*



END