



Providing Ambulance Billing Service to New England Since 1984

NEWSLETTER

from the desk of Rick Martin

Direct Line: 978-771-6482 E-Mail: Rick.Martin@ComstarBilling.com

December 2007



2008 Medicare Rates – Rate Change Form

New Rule for Patient Signatures

Medicare recently published an Ambulance Inflation Factor of 2.7% for 2008. This factor is used to calculate the Medicare Ambulance Allowable Amounts that will go into effect on January 1, 2008. Along with this Newsletter, I have included 1) A listing of the current billing rates we have on file for your service, and 2) Comstar’s Rate Change Form. This form lists Medicare’s rate along with a space to indicate any changes you’d like to make in your rates for 2008.

As reported in our November 2007 newsletter, CMS has issued a new interpretation of the patient signature requirement rule.

A full explanation of this change has been provided to Comstar by its EMS attorney, David Werfel. In summary: ***“The provisions of the Final Rule go into effect on January 1, 2008. Ambulance services need to be ready for January 1, 2008. The simplest course of action is to convince crews to get the signature on all non-emergencies, from either the patient or an authorized representative. For emergencies, crews need to get the signature of the either patient or someone at the receiving hospital.”***

Reminder, if your policy is to set your rates at some percentage above the Medicare rates, please apply that percentage and fill in the result in the “Client Specified Rates” column of the change form.

The full text explanation of the new rule including recommendations for compliance can be found on Comstar’s website, www.comstarbilling.com, click on Home Page, then OnLine Documents (in lower right corner of Home Page).

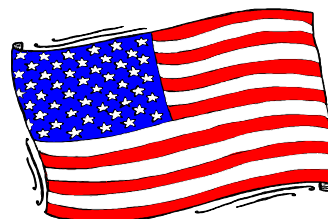
Please complete and return the Rate Change Form as soon as possible. If you do not wish to change your rates at this time, please check the “no change” box on the Change Form and return as soon as possible

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



**I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND
GOOD HEALTH & PROSPERITY IN
2008**

*America
Land of the Free
Home of the Brave*



BMM

