



ORLEANS PARISH MEDICAL SOCIETY Member News

November 9, 2004

MDs/Practice Managers Should Attend to See How OPMS/LSMS Sponsored-Company Can Help You Reclaim What CIGNA Owes You

CIGNA Recovery Briefings Next Wednesday (11/17) Only

Managed Care Advisory Group (MCAG) has been sponsored by the Louisiana State Medical Society, 20 other state societies, and the American Medical Association to assist members with claims involving the CIGNA Healthcare Inc. class-action settlement.

The claims process can be both complicated and time-consuming. Some practices might take weeks to complete their search and submission of claims because of the complexity of locating CIGNA claims in patient files, then extracting the eligible CPT codes. The Managed Care Advisory Group (MCAG) is offering assistance to physicians to help them maximize their return from the national class-action settlement with CIGNA.

The Louisiana State Medical Society and the Orleans Parish Medical Society have arranged a members-only discount with Managed Care Advisory Group (MCAG) to help physicians in this process.

MCAG can help OPMS members to:

- Determine the most appropriate filing category to maximize your return
- Locate all eligible CIGNA claims
- Submit claims, with appropriate forms and documentation, to the CIGNA Settlement Administrator for payment
- Monitor the timeliness and accuracy of your payment from the Settlement Administrator

MCAG maintains a secure web site to upload claims data and a call center for additional support. With MCAG, a CIGNA claims submission can go from a project lasting weeks to a process taking a few hours.

MCAG offers OPMS members significant discounts on the recovery fees charged for its services. These fees are based on a percentage of recoveries. OPMS members who also belong to the American Medical Association will see an even greater return if they file through MCAG because of additional discounts offered to AMA members. Consequently, MCAG can determine your proper filing category and prepare your claims files for submission to the CIGNA Settlement administrator. MCAG has established an on-line, automated process for uploading your patient files for quick, secure and comprehensive extraction of all eligible submissions. Their website is easy to use and includes telephone support and the option to submit patient data in other formats, including tapes, CD-ROMS and paper files.

CIGNA Settlement Fast Facts

The settlement claims period started on Aug. 23, 2004 and goes through Feb. 18, 2005. Depending on your current status and number of previous claims with CIGNA, you could qualify in one of a number of different repayment categories:

Category A Settlement Fund - This fund, established at \$30 million, will be divided among Physicians on a pro rata basis. Physicians benefiting from participation in this fund distribution are:

- 1) Retired and deceased Physicians.
- 2) Active Physicians with little CIGNA business.
- 3) Active Physicians with limited data retrieval capabilities.

Physicians filing under Category A will not be eligible to file under the other categories.

Claims Distribution Fund The minimum amount allocated by CIGNA to this fund is \$40 million. CIGNA has agreed to pay three categories of compensation to Physicians affected by Claim Coding and Bundling Edits, and Medical Necessity Denials.

Category One Compensation - This compensation is available for the denial of payment for a specific list of CPT codes, within specific date of service limitations.

Category Two Compensation - Compensation from this fund covers several issues, including CPT codes otherwise covered under Category One that fall outside the date ranges specified. CIGNA has also agreed to provide a "Facilitation List" of CPT codes which were denied payment for a variety of reasons.

Compensation for Erroneous Denials of Claims on Medical Necessity Grounds - CIGNA will make additional payments to Physicians after reconsideration and reversal of denial decisions due to Medical Necessity where it is directed to do so under the terms of the agreement.

"For the class-action settlement involving CIGNA Healthcare Inc. to be truly successful, the nation's physicians must submit claims for the tens of millions of dollars in retrospective relief available to them - and physicians must be well-informed when they file for relief. All physicians - even those without contracts with CIGNA or who never submitted a claim to CIGNA - are eligible for relief, but nothing from the funds established in the settlement will be paid to physicians who do not file timely claims with the Settlement Administrator." — From the American Medical Association Voice, September/October 2004, pg 8

CIGNA Briefing RSVP Form

Fax to 522-3325

Wednesday, November 17
All meetings at the City Club
1525 St. Charles Avenue

Light meals or refreshments will be served. Open to OPMS members and their staff only at no charge. Non-member physicians or practice staff may attend if space permits.

Name of Person(s) Attending:
(Limit 2 per office)

Which session will you attend?

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Questions? Call OPMS at 523-2474 or contact Tyler Dunlap with Managed Care Advisory Group at 800-355-0466 x 17 or 419-350-4539, tyler.dunlap@mcaginc.com, or visit our website at www.mcaginc.com and we will be glad to assist you.