SGR Repeal and New Framework Proposed in Draft on Capitol Hill

Earlier this week, the chairmen and health subcommittee chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee issued a draft framework for repealing and replacing the SGR. This is a second, more detailed draft building on a first draft released earlier this year.

The new framework offers a little more clarity on the three phases proposed in the original draft. For example:

- Under Phase 1, the SGR would be repealed and replaced with stable, predictable (statutorily set) updates for some period of time. During Phase 1, it is envisioned that physicians would work on developing quality measures that could be incorporated into Phase 2.
- During Phase 2, a portion of fee-for-service payments would be based on quality measures through an update incentive program.
- During Phase 3, provider rates under fee-for-service could also be enhanced through additional incentives on efficient use of health care resources.
- These phases are most relevant to physicians who remain in Medicare fee-for-service. Those who choose to participate in an alternative payment model would be exempt from the new performance-based fee-for-service system.

Many important details are still missing in this draft according to the American Medical Association (AMA). Physicians are encouraged to provide feedback and comments.

MSDC Update from the President

MSDC President Addresses Prior Authorization, SGR, Government Mandates & Physician Health

MSDC’s President Daniel I. Perlin, M.D., has been active on your behalf supporting the interests of physicians in the District of Columbia. Read this recent update to learn what he has been up to and what the Medical Society is doing to support the medical community in DC. If you missed the March 26th update, be sure that the “@msdc.org” domain is listed as a safe sender in your email settings.

DHCF Provides Resources for Increased Medicaid Reimbursement

Available for practicing physicians who qualify

On November 1, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final regulation implementing Section 1202 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which increases
Monday, April 22
6:30 pm
1250 23rd Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Current members requesting an invitation in advance are welcome to attend. For details, email Ed Shanbacker

Partner Events

FREE WEBINAR

How to Switch Your EHR with Confidence: Taking Control of Patient Data Conversion
Wednesday, April 10
12:15 pm ET

There’s an onslaught of change in health care today, making it hard for caregivers to stay focused on patient care. For more details or to register, click here.

USE YOUR 50% MEMBER DISCOUNT

2013 Loss Prevention Seminars ~ In Defense of Good Medicine

Thursday, April 11
Thursday, May 16
Wednesday, June 12
Thursday, July 25

Up to 2 CME credits available. More dates in September and October. While previous seminars explored how risk management issues can damage a physician’s credibility and a claim’s defensibility, this seminar reinforces the positive. Read more here.

Educational Events

Solution Focused Brief Therapy Trainings

Medicaid reimbursement for specified primary care services to 100% of Medicare levels in 2013 and 2014. A useful FAQ is available to explain how the DC Department of Health Care Finance is implementing these changes in the District’s Medicaid program and the self-attestation process.

Who is eligible to receive the increased reimbursement?

The ACA provides for higher reimbursement in both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care settings for specific primary care services furnished by practicing physicians who:

1st: Self-attests to a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine (using the self-attestation form);

2nd: Then attests to either:

- board-certification in family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatric medicine, or in a subspecialty of family medicine; general internal medicine or pediatric medicine as designated by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS); the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS); or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); and/or

- at least sixty (60) percent of all Medicaid services the physician bills FFS or provides in a managed care environment are for the specified Evaluation & Management (E&M) and vaccine administration codes

What primary care services are eligible for higher reimbursement?

Evaluation & Management (E&M) codes 99201 through 99499 and vaccine administration codes 90460, 90461, 90471, 90472, 90473 and 90474 (or successor codes, where applicable)

Additional information can be found on the DHCF’s website.

Health Professional Loan Repayment Program Open

DC’s Department of Health is Accepting Applications

The DC Department of Health is accepting new applications for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP). The HPLRP opened on April 1, 2013. Applicants have until May 15, 2013 to submit their completed applications for the program.

DC’s Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP) provides loan repayment (up to $61,229) to eligible providers practicing in underserved areas of the District for at least two years. The DOH expects that the majority of the applications will be issued to primary care providers, but a variety of providers are eligible. Eligible participants include licensed and certified physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, advanced practice nurses, registered nurses, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and licensed professional counselors practicing at HPLRP-certified Service Obligation Sites (SOS). A certified SOS must be either a nonprofit or a public entity that provides primary care, mental health and/or dental services to District residents regardless of their ability to pay and is located in a federally-designated Health Professional Shortage or Medically Underserved Area within the District that corresponds to the services the entity provides. Applicants must be already employed or have a signed employment contract with a certified SOS at the time of application.

Please click here to read a Press Release. Applicants can also visit this website for additional guidelines, and application packages.

MSDC News: Nominations Sought for Leadership Elections and MSDC Special Awards

Nominations for Leadership Elections Due May 1, 2013

MSDC’s Leadership Development/ Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the 2013-14 Leadership Elections for the following offices:

- President Elect (1-Year Term, followed by 1-Year-Term as President)
- 3 Members-at-Large (2-Year Term)
May 13-15
June 24-26
Thurgood Marshall Bldg.
1816 12th St NW
Washington, DC

18 CEUs are available.
Hosted by the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative.
Learn more here.

International Conference on Nutrition and the Brain
July 19-20
Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, DC

Up to 12 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits are available. Register by April 15th to get $299 rate.

Experts will share the latest insights on the role of nutrients in Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders at this event. See flyer for more information.

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Center Website and selecting "Rapid HIV Testing - Online" in the interventions and courses dropdown menu. Once participants enter their login or create a new login, they will complete the PIF and enter the course.

The modules will take approximately 5 hours to complete, if completed in one setting. Participants may also start the online course, save their completed portion and return to complete the remaining portion of the course. The online course is available starting April 1, 2013.

For additional questions contact Dwayne Banks at Ebanks@cdc.gov or call 404 639-3873.

Welcome to MedSystem Solutions!

MSDC’s Newest Corporate Partner

MedSystem Solutions is a family owned local business utilizing the latest technology in Electronic medical billing, integrated EHR/EMR, real time insurance eligibility and coding updates.

For more information, contact Steina Walter at (855) 337-7700 or steina@medsystemsolutions.com.

Save Up to 75% Off Prescription Drugs Using DC RxCard

As a physician in Washington, DC, you and your patients have access to a FREE Prescription Drug Card program. The Medical Society is pleased to offer the DCRx CARD. Your patients can save up to 75% on prescriptions, selected eye-wear, vitamins and other products. The card is accepted in pharmacies in the District, Maryland and Virginia.

The Medical Society of DC has new cards available and any Society member who requests it may receive a supply of 250 cards. Please email Pia Duryea at duryea@msdc.org and ask for cards for your patients.

Lower Your Vaccine Costs

With MSDC Corporate Partner Atlantic Health Partners

The Medical Society of DC has a strong resource - Atlantic Health Partners - to help its members successfully address the financial and administrative challenges of providing immunization to your patients.

There is no cost to join and signing up is quick and easy. As a member of Atlantic you will receive the most favorable vaccine prices and terms for Sanofi and Merck vaccines along with unparalleled customer service and support with ordering, reimbursement issues, and inventory management.

As the nation’s leading vaccine buying group, Atlantic’s commitment is to ensure that providing vaccines to your patients has a positive impact on the operational, financial, and clinical performance of your practice - and they offer many additional benefits including:

- The best pricing, delivery, and return terms for Sanofi, Merck, and MedImmune flu products
- Lower prices for a wide range of medical and office supplies
- Medicare Part D Program so physicians can administer Shingles and Pertussis vaccines
- Discounts on Migi Scientific refrigerator/freezers

We encourage you to contact Cindy or Jeff at 800-741-2044 or info@atlantichealthpartners.com to see how Atlantic Health Partners can benefit your practice.
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