

CSMS-IPA Clinical Program Spotlight

Preventive Care Program

A surprisingly low percentage of Medicare Advantage (MA) patients have claims for a Preventive Care Visit (99387 and 99397).

Regardless of the reasons for this anomaly, a MA patient in a PCPM practice will benefit by having an annual Preventive Care Visit. This is perfect encounter to thoroughly evaluate all of the patient's health care issues, create a care plan that is understood and embraced, supply the annual update of ICD-9-CM codes and promote wellness.

For those MA patients enrolled in CSMS-IPA sponsored payer programs, the IPA will periodically supply a roster of those patients who have not yet had an annual Preventive Care visit. This will assist practices in identifying those patients for whom such care is lacking. All the CSMS-IPA partners will pay for this code.

Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) Coding: Depression

As part of our ongoing discussion of Hierarchical Condition Category coding (HCC) some have asked for an explanation of the various degrees of depression. Below is a brief description of the three degrees of depression as listed on our HCC form. MedLine Plus (U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health) and the National Institute of Mental Health have some beneficial information regarding depression.

Does this patient have Depression? When a person has a depressive disorder, it interferes with daily life, normal functioning, and causes pain for both the person with the disorder and those who care about him or her.

- **Mild:** Sufferers may carry on with their normal lives, only appearing low in spirits and possibly less sharp in their thinking or in their interest. They may stop doing things they do not actually have to do, but will often continue with the essentials, such as going to work or caring for the family.
- **Moderate:** The central features are low mood, lack of enjoyment, negative thinking, and reduced energy, all of which lead to decreased social and occupational functioning.
- **Severe:** True clinical depression is a mood disorder in which feelings of sadness, loss, anger, or frustration interfere with everyday life for a long period of time. In severe depression sufferers will probably not function with any degree of reliability without intervention.

Feel free to contact Cynthia Eichholtz (CEichholtz@csms-ipa.com) with any questions about HCC coding.

Practice Outreach

So that all PCPM practices have an opportunity to discuss the basis tenants of the PCPM program, the CSMS-IPA has begun to visit practices and meet with both administrative and clinical personnel.

Feel free to contact Cynthia Eichholtz (CEichholtz@csms-ipa.com) to schedule your visit. IPA staff are always available to answer your questions.