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Provider eNews - September 2012

Fee schedule update for inpatient hospitals

The proposed hospital inpatient reimbursement rule that is proposed to become effective Feb. 1, 2013, includes modifications to:

- Adopt rates published in Medicare's Inpatient Prospective Payment System final Rule, excluding provisions for value-based purchasing and excess readmissions;
- Maintain 2012 BWC Payment Adjustment Factors;
- Modify reimbursement methodologies for Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Groups (MS-DRG) exempt hospitals and non-Medicare participating hospitals.

Medical Services Division staff members initially presented the inpatient hospital and professional provider fee schedules to BWC's Board of Directors at its Aug. 23 meeting. The board will hear the second presentation of the proposed rules on Sept. 28 at which time board members will vote on accepting the recommended changes.

Via our website's medical providers' page, we collected public feedback through Aug. 27. We will share that information with the board during the Sept. 28 meeting. Thank you for your responses.

New members for Disability Evaluators Panel needed

Are you a board certified specialist or chiropractor with diplomate status interested in joining our disability evaluators panel (DEP)? We established the DEP to provide quality, impartial medical evaluations and medical-file reviews to support claims management.

The DEP includes doctors of:

- Medicine and osteopathy;
- Chiropractic;
- Podiatry;
- Dental surgery;
- Psychology.

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The DEP provides objective, accurate evaluations and file reviews that produce concise, timely and justifiable reports to support our claims-management process.

To become a DEP member, health-care providers must be BWC certified and meet additional qualifications. These qualifications are in the [Disability Evaluator Handbook](#).

Please [email](#) the DEP Central Unit for an application or if you have questions.

Ohio State Medical Association partners with BWC for pain-management seminars

BWC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Woods joined a team of pain-management specialists in Toledo and Cincinnati in August to discuss prescribing guidance in this era of prescription drug abuse.

Sponsored by the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), these events were the first of several the association is sponsoring statewide. More than 100 area primary care physicians, plus others involved in the care of patients with chronic pain attended in each city.

"The bureau is committed to being part of the solution," Dr. Woods says when referring to the opiate epidemic. He explains that BWC's priority is to ensure injured workers who are patients receive the appropriate treatment while not losing sight of returning the patient to work. He outlined steps the pharmacy department takes to provide better oversight of prescriptions and he discusses our efforts to make sure we have a safety net for the fall-out of patients who are at risk of addiction. "We have the injured workers' best interest at heart," he notes.

Dr. Woods also mentioned BWC's desire to strengthen the Disability Evaluators Panel with more pain specialists who can provide independent reviews of claims involving high doses of opioids. "You are the types of doctors we want on our panel," Woods explains. "We are looking for people like you who will take the initiative to attend this type of educational session and truly understand the challenges of managing pain."

Leading pain-management experts speak at each conference to their fellow physicians providing their tips to manage difficult cases. Dr. Woods will participate at a similar OSMA conference in Columbus on Oct. 11. Planning is underway for more regional sessions this year and in 2013. More information on these events is available on the OSMA [website](#).

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