



Utilization Solutions in Healthcare

Solving the practice puzzle.

Putting your Practice Puzzle Together

A Monthly E-Zine for Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, Inc.

In This Issue:

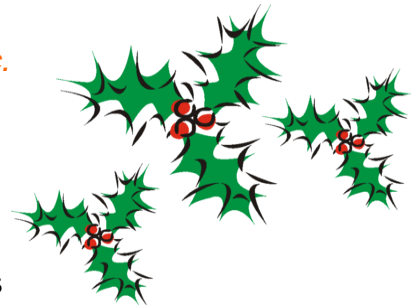
State Watch - Highlights from across the country on issues affecting Midlevel Practice

Gimme The \$\$\$ - News notes and legislative changes that affect reimbursement

Solve the Clinical Puzzle - Features to enhance clinical practice. We encourage Practice Managers and Administrators to share these pearls with their clinical teams.

Your 2 cents - Interactive Survey/Poll

Our Solution for You



State Watch

National Advance For PA Practice

This isn't a specific state watch - but is instead a national advance for PA Practice.

If you work in an environment that treats federal employees - check this out:

The U.S. House of Representatives' approved legislation (H.R. 2465, the Federal Workers' Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act.) that would allow PAs to

diagnose and treat federal employees with job-related traumatic injuries.

The bill amends the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to allow PAs to diagnose and treat federal employees with job-related traumatic injuries, an estimated 85 percent of all federal workers' compensation cases. The bill was approved by the House Education and Workforce Committee in July and passed without objection by the House, and must now pass the Senate to become law.

This is the first significant reform of FECA in over 40 years. Contact your local Senator to encourage them to take action on this bill in Congress.

Read more here and support AAPA in their efforts to support this important legislation:

<http://www.capwiz.com/aapa/issues/alert/?alertid=57474501&type=co>



Gimme The \$\$\$

Are you using Modifier 24? Do you bill for globals?

This is one of the top 10 billing errors seen on RAC (Recovery Audit Contractor) audits. If you are submitting a claim for a service using modifier 24 and that service should have been included in the global package, you could be fraudulently billing.

Recently, CMS announced they are conducting a three-year demonstration to expand prepayment review of Medicare claims. The Recovery Audit Program Prepayment Review demonstration will allow Medicare Recovery Auditors to conduct prepayment claim reviews to assist in lowering the improper payment rate and to identify potential fraud and abuse.

This demonstration will be conducted for 3 years, from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014. It will be implemented in 11 states, and NC is one of them.

Read more here:

Reference: <https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/factsheet.asp?Counter=4170>



Solve the Clinical Puzzle

Clinical Providers! Did You Know?

In light of all the holiday feasts - Did you know LIPITOR is now available as a generic?

The first generic version of atorvastatin is available from Ranbaxy Laboratories. It is available in 10-mg, 20-mg, 40-mg, and 80-mg tablet forms.

Reference: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/754549>



Your 2 cents

Please participate in this month's industry poll by visiting the link below:

<http://www.pushpa.biz/poll-legislation>



Our Solution for You

It is always better to give than to receive -

In the holiday spirit, USH has made a contribution to a Habitat for Humanity Home being built in rural Person County, NC. This is a green home going to a deserving family of 5 - mom, dad, and 3 young children. One of the local banks will match your donation dollar for dollar up to the first \$5,000 collected. Your donation is tax-free and tax deductible.

Won't you consider helping them reach their fundraising goals so this family can move in?

Send your donation to:

Person County Habitat for Humanity
Matching Funds Donation

PO Box 52
Roxboro, NC 27573

Wishing you and yours many blessings this holiday season - and all the best for a prosperous New Year!

Kind regards,

Lisa



Lisa Shock is a Duke University Physician Assistant graduate and has greater than 10 years of clinical experience in a variety of healthcare settings. In addition to previously owning and running a rural primary care clinic, she is the current president and CEO of Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, a company she created in response to the many questions she has received over the years about Physician Assistant utilization. Lisa is a past president of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. She also contributed to the Physician Assistant profession by serving on the PA Advisory Council of the North Carolina Medical Board as well as the Quality Improvement and Health Information Technology Committee of the North Carolina Medical Society, and she remains a state PA expert in reimbursement and legislative issues. She enjoys part time clinical primary care practice and enjoys teaching geriatric medicine and long term care as a Duke PA Program faculty member.

Lisa was recently interviewed on BlogTalkRadio - [listen here!](#)

Lisa P. Shock, MHS, PA-C
President/CEO
Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, Inc.
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