

CFPA

Central Florida Physicians Alliance

Excellence in Health Care

MD Connections



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPT 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- News from the President
- Executive Director Update
- New Staff
- PECOS
- Professional Liability Update
- Annual Meeting
- New Provider Resources

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From the President

Central Florida Physicians Alliance has gone through several new changes since the beginning of the year. First, our office staff has changed. We now have a new Executive Director, Credentialing Assistant, and Administrative Manager to handle the day to day operations. They have been doing an excellent job.

The second item pertains to a Professional Liability Group plan that would offer the members a discounted rate on their premiums. As you are aware, the Board of Directors voted to form a Risk

Purchasing Group and contracted with Karyn Richcreek with USI Insurance



Dr. Sergio Seoane, MD

to accomplish this endeavor. Karyn has been working with Ken and our attorney to reach our goal. There has been great pro-

gress made and the outcome will be presented at the Annual Meeting in November.

As my term concludes, our nominating committee will be meeting to search for Board Members for the next term 2011 to 2012. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please contact Ken Emmitt at the CFPA office at 863-647-0900.

From the Executive Director

There have been many changes in the office of the Central Florida Physician Alliance this year. Susan Earl and Monica McCook are no longer with us and we wish them well in their endeavors. I would like to introduce myself and staff to you in this 1st

edition on the 2010 newsletter.

My name is Ken Emmitt and I am a native of Lakeland, Florida. I have a long history in the medical field and the insurance business. I am pleased to be a part of this wonderful organization and



Ken Emmitt

hope to assist anyone when needed. I started in January 2010 reviewing processes the CFPA had in place. Numerous changes to improve are currently being implemented to assist the physicians and their staff. Some of these changes will be outlined in



From the Director—Continued...

changes will be outlined in this newsletter.

Assisting me with the credentialing process is Shannon Dyal. Shannon has experience in this process and is truly an asset to this organization. You may hear from her to assist in obtaining the needed documents in order to be compliant with our delegated credentialing status.

Lilliam Aguilera is also a great asset to the CFPA. Lilliam has 30+ years as an accountant at Jackson Memorial Hospital in

Miami. She has worked very hard to reorganize the business side of the CFPA. Should you have any questions regarding your dues, please feel free to contact Lilliam.

The CFPA is continuing to grow in membership and in the community. The CFPA website is currently being updated to reflect the appropriate changes. Our website is for physicians and staff as well as a referral service for the community. Our members contact information is listed for anyone in the community looking for a

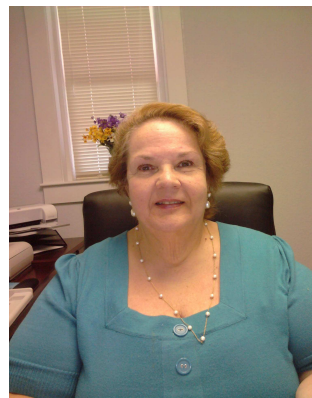
physician, either a PCP or Specialist. Please feel free to direct family and friends to the website at www.cfpalliance.com to find a physician if needed.

I hope to be visiting your office soon and meet you personally. Feel free to contact me at the office at 863-647-0900 or email kemmitt@cfpalliance.com if I can assist you in any way.

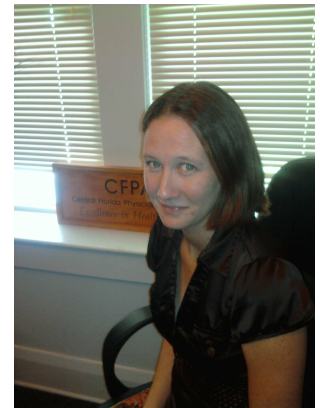
Ken



Lilliam



Shannon



The New faces in
the CFPA Office

Physicians need to have their NPI number registered to receive reimbursement from CMS

PECOS

The following article is re-typed with permission from the Part B Insider newsletter. This article was in the July 2010 edition, Vol.11, No. 24 To enroll in this subscription, visit www.partbinsider.com. This subscription is filled

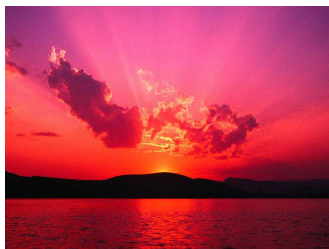
with valuable information regarding billing, coding, and CMS updates.

“CMS Won’t Reject Claims Based on PECOS Edits This Month

Despite the fact that the PECOS deadline is near, you needn’t worry about denials – yet.

The July 6 PECOS deadline is nearly upon medical practices, but many report that the close the deadline gets, the more difficult it is to

Provider Enrollment, Chain, & Ownership System



access CMS's system.

If your physician performs a service as the result of an order or referral, your claim must include the ordering or referring practitioner's national provider identifier (NPI), and that number must be in the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS) or the payer's computer system. Currently, if you submit claims for services or items ordered/referred and the ordering or referring physician's information is not in the MAC's claims system or in PECOS, your practice will get an information message letting you know that the practitioner's information is missing from the system. The deadline to get into the PECOS system is July 6, 2010.

Don't panic if you're not in the system: Although the July 6 deadline is right around the corner, you don't need to worry about denials just yet. Despite initial news suggesting that ordering/referring providers who weren't in PECOS by July 6 would face denials, CMS has extended that period.

"While the regulation will be effective July 6, 2010, CMS will not implement automatic rejections of claims submitted by providers that have attempted to enroll in PECOS," CMS said in a June 30 statement. "CMS will, for the time being, not implement changes that would automatically reject claims based on orders, certifications, and referrals made by providers that have not yet had their applications approved by July 6, 2010."

Expect Delays in PECOS System

In the meantime, if you aren't yet in the PECOS system, you should enroll as soon as possible. Practices have reported delays on the CMS Web site, most likely due to an overwhelming number of people trying to access the system.

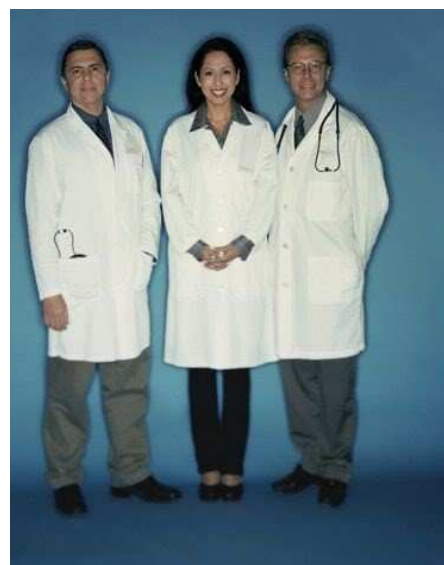
For example: One physician stayed on the PECOS system more than seven hours trying to check the doctor's enrollment status, but the system was so overloaded she couldn't compete the process, says Serese Wiehardt with Howard County Home Health and Hospice in Fayette, Mo. Other physicians report receiving PECOS approval letters months ago, but still not being listed in CMS's file of PECOS-enrolled physicians on the website, Wiehardt relates.

CMS updated its PECOS

file only every four to six weeks, which makes it hard for providers to figure out whether their referring physicians are actually enrolled yet.

At least one technical problem has been resolved; CMS has posted the PECOS-enrolled physician file using a more user-friendly comma separated value (CSV) format, which can be opened in MS Excel, and therefore eliminates the lengthy PDF file search providers were being forced to perform.

To enroll in PECOS or get more information, visit <https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>. To find the list of ordering/referring providers listed in PECOS, visit www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/06_MedicareOrderingandReferring.asp.



CFPA Annual Meeting 2010

The Annual Meeting for CFPA Members and a guest will be held Saturday, November 20, 2010 at the Terrace Hotel in Lakeland. Please make plans to join us for the meeting and cocktail reception that will follow.

The meeting will be held in the conference room on the 2nd floor from 5:30 pm—6:30 pm. Guests of the members will be able to

enjoy appetizers and drinks on the mezzanine during the meeting. Once the official business has concluded, the reception will be held at the beautiful Kruger Park from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm with delicious food, drinks, music and the awesome view of lake mirror while our members network and socialize. If weather does not permit the outside event,

the reception will be held on the 2nd floor ballroom as well.

New Board members will be voted in, our professional liability project discussed as well as news from the CFPA office.

Invitations will be sent and the members will need to RSVP. We are looking for a great turnout and we hope to see you there.



Sleeping pills may increase symptoms of OSAS.....

Polk Starlight Sleep Labs

Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome (OSAS)

More than 100 million Americans of all ages regularly fail to get a good night's sleep. This number is more than one-third of the U.S. population. At least 84 disorders of sleeping and waking lead to a lowered quality of life and reduced personal health. Some sleep disorders can be life-threatening. Loud snoring can be a sign of something seriously wrong with patient breathing during one-third of their life. Organ systems can be stressed every day during sleep.

An estimated 10% to 30% of adults snore. For 5%, extremely loud nightly snoring is the first indication of a potentially life-threatening disorder: Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome or OSAS.

Warning signs of OSAS include: Loud snoring—the snoring may be so loud that it rivals a jackhammer and can be heard rooms away. A pattern

of snoring interrupted by pauses, then gasps, reveals the sleeper's breathing stops and restarts. Falling asleep at inapwork, at the movies, or while driving. Trouble concentrating, forgetfulness, irritability, depression, or loss of interest in sex. Men may complain of impotence and women may have menstrual irregularities. Other warning signs include headaches or nausea upon awaking, frequent nighttime urination or even bedwetting.

Alcohol, sleeping pills, and tranquilizers taken at bedtime also reduce muscle tone and can make the throat more likely to collapse. Some people with OSAS may actually have more disturbed sleep when they take a sleeping pill. OSAS most often strikes overweight men. A different throat structure or levels of hormones may protect women. In later years, the gap between the

sexes narrows, although it never disappears completely.

Some consequences of untreated OSAS includes Hypertension, Myocardial Infarction, Stroke and Depression.

General treatment measures include:

- Normalize weight
- Avoid alcohol at bedtime
- Avoid sleeping pills
- Take medications with care.
- Sleep lying on you side or stomach
- Medications to relieve congestion may be helpful in reducing snoring and the likelihood of OSAS episodes.

For more information regarding OSAS or to make a referral, contact Marla at 863-688-2700 or visit www.starlightsleep.com.

Chat from the Members

Find the 2010 Medicare fee schedules on line at www.medicare.fcso.com/Fee_resources/148539.asp.

Marvin Odro has retired from Foot & Ankle Associates in Lakeland. We wish him well. Dr. Timothy Chan is no longer associated with Foot & Ankle Associates but remains in the Sebring office. The practice

name is Foot & Ankle Reconstruction Associates.

Dr. Nobo reports that the FMA annual meeting is August 13th to the 15th in Orlando. CME credits are available. The AMA President will be speaking about SGR and other issues. You can also see the working of the FMA House of Delegates.

Dr. Saqib Khan has opened an office in Wesley Chapel. The office name is Pain Management, Inc.

Please send information you would like shared in the next newsletter to Ken at: kemmitt@cfpalliance.com or fax to (863) 647-0900



Website News

The CFPA has been working hard to make the website user friendly as well as useful. Our goal is to increase communication and organization. Visit www.cfpalliance.com to find physician specialties, addresses and phone numbers for referrals. The website contains a listing of our Provider Resources that

offer discounts for their products or services. Blast emails will be sent when new Provider Resources are added for you to review on the website.

After a member logs in, a more secure message systems has been developed to share information to the members. Under the Contract portal, you

can view the contracts. We are currently updating the contracts with the insurance companies to make sure you are viewing the current information. Contract options allows you to opt in or opt of a contract. The polls section will allow you to vote on various topics. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call the main office.



Credentialing News

We have now uploaded the application for a new practitioner on the website. Fill out the application on the computer, print and sign it and send it to the CFPA office. You will be notified that your application is pending.

Re-applications are available on the web after the practitioner signs in using their username and pass-

word. Please be sure to send in all requested documents to expedite the credentialing process.

We are updating the system with the current ME license, DEA, and Certificate of Insurance expiration dates. 60 days prior to your expiration date, you will get a notification (after you log in) to please fax the updated copy of the document to

the CFPA office. This will ensure that our credentialing information remains current. Please call Shannon if you have any questions regarding our processes.

Credentialing is being streamlined on the web - Applications and re-applications are available on line.

CFPA

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Excellence in Health Care

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The CFPA is a network of 250+ highly trained physicians dedicated to the medical needs of your family.

Our Mission: To promote high-quality, innovative and patient-focused healthcare.

Our Pledge: To provide quality medical care with promptness, concern, and compassion.

Our alliance is growing.... If you know of a physician that would like more information, please have them call Ken Emmitt at 863-647-0900.



New Members for 2010

Kedarnath Joshi, MD

Radiology

Hassan Khan, MD

Radiology

Iulia Funieru, MD

Dermatology

Mayte Gierbolini, MD

Radiology

John Giuffrida, MD

Radiology

Lawrence Whitney, MD

Radiology

Timothy Chan, DPM

Podiatry

Raquelle Headley, MD

Family Practice

Gitika Dham, MD

Internal Medicine

Monica Rivera-Amill, MD

Family Practice

Karen Gehrs, MD

Ophthalmology

Maggie Lakshmi, MD

Radiology

Roosevelt De La Santos, MD

Pediatrics

Darren Chapman, MD

Radiology

Gary Chappel, MD

Radiology

James Weldon, MD

Radiology

Edwin Pena, MD

Family Practice

Rafay Khan, MD

Pediatrics

Irfan Siddiqui, DO

Int. Cardiology

Chad Lamoreaux, MD

Orthopedic Surgery

Julia King, OD

Optometry

Hiba Al-Dabagh, MD

Internal Medicine

Benjamin Kim, MD

Ophthalmology

Marcella Arguedas, MD

Family Practice

**The CFPA Membership
welcomes all of our new
physicians**