

PI FAX & Email ALERT

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Reducing Insurance Audits : Part 1

According to Gary Lewkovich DC, insurance fraud investigations are growing exponentially. We suspect that many of the "investigations" are "shakedowns" from dishonorable insurance carriers trying to "cow" honest doctors.

Audits are intimidating & time consuming. Many doctors would rather "settle" than submit to the audit.

Lewkovich warns of the following red flags to minimize your audit risk:

OBVIOUS RED FLAGS

1. Billing for services never received
2. Billing for cervical x-rays exams when a full-spine x-ray was performed
3. Bill with wrong diagnostic codes
4. Routinely billing for more than 3 procedures on most patients.
5. Billing for unusual or unapproved modalities.

Contact JohnTawlian@shawnsteel.com for the complete article.

Visit: WWW.SHAWNSTEEL.COM

Nuggets from Sam Collins, Billing Expert

CPT Code Update?

Q: Is it appropriate to use codes 97110-97124 in addition to manipulation [CMT] when performed to the same anatomic site?

A: According to the AMA via the CPT Assistant "97110-97124 represent distinctly separate and unrelated procedures not considered inclusive of the CMT described by codes 98940-98943. "

For more information contact Sam Collins at sam@hjrossnetwork.com

Bad Drug Alert: Avandia, diabetic drug vs. cardiac safety.

GlaxoSmithKline are charged with distorting risk analysis. Avandia was designed to lower blood glucose levels in patients suffering from Type 2 diabetes. The increase in cardiac problems after eight years and seven million patients later, scientists still don't know if Avandia is safe or effective.

Dr. John Buse, president elect of the American Diabetes Association warned back in 1999 of possible cardiac danger.

Given that many of your patients are older and taking multiple prescriptions, it might be a good idea to see who is taking Avandia

Pasadena DC wins big vs. St Farm

Dr. Jo Ann Dorothy DC showed St Farm a thing or two. Her patient Richard Jimenez, was struck by defendant making an unsafe left turn. Jimenez struck his right knee on the gearshift with enough force to break its molding. His combined medical bills were \$4923, including an orthopedist evaluation.

St Farm did not offer any money.

The jury did, by awarding \$62,000. The jury believed that Jimenez might require future knee replacement costing \$50,000.

Jimenez vs. Case GC 028 466, Pasadena Judge Joseph DeVanon.

Practice Tip

For unusual injuries, an ortho evaluation can significantly raise value in PI cases.

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Next PI Teleconference date is on:
Wednesday, August 8 at 1:00 pm
E-mail johntawlian@shawnsteel.com to get your reservation.