

PI E-MAIL & FAX ALERT

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Shawn Steel, Chiropractic Attorney

Telephone: 800-626-0003

Website: www.shawnsteel.com

Email: shawnsteel@shawnsteel.com

Is AAA back to its old habits?

Maria Perez, a Compliance Officer from The Department of Insurance, wrote on Oct 4 to a CCA member, that the long standing Ca. Insurance Code Sec. 10133, recognizing DC's use of Assignments, applies only "to group master contracts." The DOI will not investigate AAA for failing to honor Assignments.



We are still uncertain as to what extent AAA is sending your patient the money, instead of honoring the patient's written demand that they prefer the doctor to get the fees paid direct. Otherwise, all AAA patients would have to pay cash and wait to get reimbursed.

Keep us, Sam Collins and the CCA informed with any hard evidence of AAA bypassing your Assignment. When the patient gets your money, they are not certain whether it is part of a settlement or it belongs to you. This can create friction between you and your patient.

PRACTICE TIP: make a special folder for copies of all CSAA / AAA assignment cases.

Monthly PI Teleconference:

Wednesday, Oct. 27 @ 1:00 PM Sharp!

What is that case worth?

Exactly how do PI judges evaluate PI cases?
What do they generally think of DC claims?
What do they like and not like?

E-mail johntawlian@shawnsteel.com for telephone # and pass code.

Feds pull RX Meridia from the shelves



Already there is criticism against the FDA over how long it took the agency to recall Meridia. With shades of Fen Phin of the past, Meridia is a prescription weight-loss drug. It is now linked to an increase risk of heart attacks and strokes.

This popular drug was used for years--- but arguably at an unacceptable human cost. Since 2002, over 3 million prescriptions have been filled. Last year, a clinical trial found that Meridia increased heart risk by 16% as compared to those who took a placebo. Abbot Laboratories reluctantly agreed to the recall.

PRACTICE TIP: It's always a good idea to monitor what RX drugs your patients are taking. Let us know if your patient was taking Meridia.

We go anywhere in CA for Significant Cases