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Utilization Solutions
in Healthcare
Solving the practice puzzle.

Putting your Practice Puzzle Together

An E-Zine for Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, Inc.



State Watch

Allowing PAs to Provide Hospice Care - HR 3831

Another topic of nationwide importance comes from the AAPA Advocacy Network.

Great news: A bill has been introduced in the House to allow PAs to provide hospice services to Medicare beneficiaries. Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Lee Terry (R-NE) introduced HR 3831, the Medicare Hospice Care Access Act, on January 25, 2012. This is the House companion bill to S. 891, introduced in 2011. With hospice bills in both bodies of Congress, NOW is the time to act.

Currently, PAs are barred from providing hospice care to beneficiaries, even

though state law allows it. The inability of PAs to provide hospice care for their terminally ill Medicare patients places an unconscionable burden on the patient to find alternative care and denies patients access to their "medical home" at a time when they are the most vulnerable.

Please contact your Representatives and tell them of the critical need for PAs in hospice medicine. Ask them to cosponsor HR 3831 today.

Contact your representatives here:

<http://capwiz.com/aapa/home/>



Gimme the \$\$\$

eRX Penalties Begin in 2012

Beginning in 2012, Section 132 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (P.L.110-275) (MIPPA) requires CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) to subject eligible professionals who are not successful electronic prescribers under the eRx Incentive Program to a payment adjustment.

This payment adjustment applies to all of the eligible professional's Part B-covered professional services under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS).

For 2012, eligible professionals receiving a payment adjustment (i.e. penalty if not e-prescribing) will be paid 1.0% less than the MPFS amount for that service. In 2013 and 2014, the payment adjustment increases to 1.5% and 2.0% respectively.

For more information on the 2012 payment adjustment process, visit:

https://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/20_Payment_Adjustment_Information.asp



Solve the Clinical Puzzle

February makes us think of love and Valentines. Ever wonder why in the geriatric population if one person dies, their partner often follows shortly thereafter? A new study finds that there is a 21-fold increased risk in the first 24 hours of bereavement compared with other times.

Health care professionals should be aware of this connection and consider that the impact of profound grief on CV events is greatest in those at highest CV risk.

Read more here: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756618>



Your 2 cents

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

<http://www.pushpa.biz/poll-electronic-prescribing>



Our Solution for You

We want you to include our main website as a place for information and resources on all things PA/NP. Please take a moment to fill out this web survey to give us feedback on our main website.

All who take the survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$15 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD!

CLICK here to take the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/USHWEBSURVEY0212>

Once you have filled out the above survey please come back and click on this link to fill in your contact information:

<https://lpshock.infusionsoft.com/app/form/gift-card-capture>

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
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