



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

Important Information For ALL PA's and NP's

We would like to again share some new information that is of Nationwide Importance....

"Listen" up if you are practicing in a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area (MUA).

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. This is the agency that governs the National Health Service Corps and the Bureau of Primary Health Care, overseeing federally qualified health centers.

The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the Designation of Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs) and Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs) released a report to HRSA that proposes to count PAs and NPs for the first time in the provider-to-population ratio as .75 full-time equivalents to a physician.

HRSA has submitted a complete report with these recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Development of a new designation process rule could take several months to finalize and we will be on the lookout for proposed changes.

Go here to read more - <http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/shortage/>
And download the reports from the right hand sidebar.



Gimme The \$\$\$

Are you maximizing reimbursement for ancillary services?

Vaccines and immunizations are an important health maintenance service for patients and added revenue for you -

No matter if you are family med, surgery, cardiology or other specialty - if you see patients older than 50 they can get the new pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate vaccine (manufactured by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, marketed by Pfizer Inc) for adults aged 50 years and older for the prevention of pneumonia and invasive disease.

Also - don't forget the influenza vaccine - it is not too late....

Read more here:

Reference:

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756282?sssdmh=dm1.747354&src=nl_newsalert



Solve the Clinical Puzzle

Wondering how to counsel patients to lose those holiday pounds?

The DASH diet took the No. 1 spot in best overall diet in the U.S. News and World Report's Best Diets 2012.

DASH diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) may also help lower cholesterol, as it's big on whole grains, fruits, vegetables and lean proteins. -

Weight watchers also ranked highly, being voted best weight-loss diet, best commercial diet plan and easiest diet to follow.

Read more here:

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-diet-rankings-us-news-20120104,0,7350402.story>

Your 2 cents

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

<http://www.pushpa.biz/poll-health-professional-shortage-areas>



Our Solution for You

A new year often brings new beginnings and new plans. Most of us in health care might resolve to spend more time with family, relax more or simply enjoy more daily laughter. Having been in primary care for the last dozen years - this blog post by a Kentucky internist made me LOL -

Read more here:

<http://boards.medscape.com/forums?128@530.57CtagGlcY6@.2a2e51c2!comment=1>

Wishing you and yours Health, Wealth and Happiness in 2012!

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.
www.pushpa.biz

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Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, Inc 1609 Foreman Street Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 United States (919) 289-9126