



Utilization Solutions in Healthcare

Solving the practice puzzle.

Putting your Practice Puzzle Together

A Monthly E-Zine for Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, Inc.

****Happy PA Week! October 6 - 12, 2011****

In This Issue:

State Watch - Highlights from across the country on issues affecting Midlevel Practice

No Dollar Left Behind - 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

New Law Allows PAs to be Practice Owners In Texas

Legislative changes in Texas now allow physician assistants (PAs) to become medical practice owners jointly with physicians of either professional associations or professional limited liability companies. Effective September 1, 2011, the new law reflects changes in the scope of practice of physician assistants as well as the changing relationship between physician owners and the physician extenders providing services in medical practices.

A number of restrictions are cited, including that the PA or a combination of physician assistants may only own a minority ownership interest in the corporate entity. In addition, the ownership interest of an individual physician assistant may not equal or exceed the ownership interest of any individual physician owner. This provision guarantees that the physician(s) would maintain at least the majority share in the professional entity.

Lastly, PAs may not be an officer in the corporate organization and may not contract with or employ a physician to be a supervising physician for that physician assistant. The new law applies only to future ownership arrangements and does not automatically make legal any existing relationships that may contradict former rules.

Read more: [Physician assistants gain practice ownership stake with new law - FiercePracticeManagement](#)

Check out the original article [here](#).



No Dollar Left Behind

Are you using an EHR and trying to collect meaningful use money on all of your eligible providers?

Current legislation within the HITECH act offers incentive payments to physicians and nurse practitioners who provide primary care to the requisite 30 percent threshold of Medicaid recipients, and limits the EHR incentive payments for Medicaid services

provided by physician assistants only to those in rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers directed by PAs.

AAPA recently supported new legislation to amend the HITECH act:

The Health IT Modernization for Underserved Communities Act of 2011, H.R. 2729, by Reps. Karen Bass (D-CA) and Lee Terry (R-NE) was filed in early August 2011. This amendment to the HITECH Act would apply to PAs whose patient volume includes at least 30 percent Medicaid recipients.

[CONTACT US](#) if we can help you understand if you qualify and stay tuned for the latest updates on PA eligibility.



Solve the Clinical Puzzle

Clinical Providers! Did You Know?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently published updated guidelines for the treatment of urinary tract infections in infants and young children.

Highlights include:

- Diagnosis is made on the basis of the presence of both pyuria and at least 50,000 colonies per mL of a single uropathogenic organism in an appropriately collected specimen of urine.
 - After 7 to 14 days of antimicrobial treatment, close clinical follow-up monitoring should be maintained to permit prompt diagnosis and treatment of recurrent infections.
 - Ultrasonography of the kidneys and bladder should be performed to detect anatomic abnormalities.
 - Get a PDF of the guidelines here:
<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;128/3/595>
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Your 2 cents

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

<http://www.pushpa.biz/electronic-health-record>



Our Solution for You

Have your voices heard and join a group of visionary professionals discussing changes and ideas for change within the US healthcare system.

Join Proactive Healthcare USA on LinkedIn - and also join the Center of Excellence for Midlevel Providers to share opinions and discussion on issues related to PAs and NPs.

Click here to join: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3748640&trk=hb_side_g

To join please put this title in the "Groups Directory" search box: ProActive HC USA" Center of Excellence-Mid-Level Providers Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner. Then scroll down until you find it, click to the right on "join group", it'll send a request & I'll accept!

We look forward to connecting with you!



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!](#)

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