



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

No Dollar Left Behind - News notes and legislative changes that affect reimbursement

Solve the Clinical Puzzle - Features that will help enhance clinical practice = * This is also news that we encourage Practice Managers and Admins to share with their clinical teams

Your 2 cents - Interactive Survey/Poll

Our Solution for You

State Watch

Louisiana PAs Challenge Proximity Rule for PA/Physician Practice

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) proposed a rule on July 20, 2011 that would require a physician to be in specific proximity to a PA when the PA performed listed procedures. These restrictions, if adopted as written, would restrict physician/PA teams and limit patient care. A hearing was held on August 29, 2011 and a host of physicians and PAs came out to oppose the rule - citing negative impact to patient care in the state. The Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants (LAPA) and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) offered testimony as well as large Louisiana hospital groups, including LSU Health Care Services and Oschner Health System.

LAPA is now waiting to hear from the Board of Medical Examiners and in the interim, they continue to lobby their legislators to garner support in opposition of the proposed changes.

Check out the latest developments for LAPA here:

http://www.ourlapa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=72

No Dollar Left Behind

Are you billing incident -to in your practice? Do you know the CMS rules?

Here are the top 3 rules that must be followed in order to claim those Medicare dollars for midlevels:

- 1 - Physician must perform the first visit
- 2 - PA or NP may then see as an established patient with an established diagnosis
- 3 - Physician must be ON SITE and the visit must be medically necessary and within the PA/NP scope of practice

This is the most commonly misunderstood billing issue for most practices. [CONTACT US](#) if we can help!



Solve the Clinical Puzzle

Lisa Shock, MHS, PA-C has been a featured speaker at the NCAPA Summer Conference and at the Piedmont Area Physician Assistants Fall CME Meeting in 2011 sharing the latest on managing cholesterol and treating lipid disorders. Check out the newest in cardiology research for a new class of lipid drugs that hopes to raise HDL:

http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/ESCCongress/28254?utm_source=WC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Meeting_Roundup_ESC

This looks to be the first drug of its kind - as previous attempts have never made it out of clinical trials.

Your 2 cents

Legislative changes and proposed rules may affect clinical practice for ALL PAs and NPs. It is often the state academy(s) that is tasked with monitoring of local legislative changes and garnering support if needed.

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

<http://www.pushpa.biz/poll-pa-or-np-organization>



Our Solution for You

Have you received your copy of our special report: "Why Hire A Midlevel Provider for Your Practice or Health System"? Review the the report here:

 [Why Hire A Midlevel Provider for Your Practice or Health System.pdf](#)



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.

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