

Productive Provider Newsletter

Article Index 2003 - 2009

2003

OCTOBER 2003

1. **Comentary** (Ranting) Atmosphere of mistrust and misunderstanding.
2. **Medical Decision Making**
3. **Being Human**

DECEMBER 2003

1. **It's just my opinion**
Reimbursement, there has to be a better word.
2. **Time**
When is it appropriate to consider time?

2004

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

1. **It's Just MY Opinion**
A new focus for MPECS,
2. **There is money on the table, is it yours?**
Have you ever lost a \$20 bill? You know you had it in your pocket, but it is now gone. Doesn't that just drive you crazy? Some practices walk away from money all day long.
3. **Six steps;** Six steps you can take to improve your coding and documentation efforts.

MARCH 2004

1. **It's Just MY Opinion**
Sitting down together.
2. **What is YOUR time worth?**
Do you ever wonder how Medicare, Medicaid and insurance companies come up with the dollar amounts they are willing to pay for your services?
3. **Perspectives on Time Management**
"Is the jar full?" By this time the class was on to him. "Probably not," one of them answered.

APRIL 2004

1. **It's Just MY Opinion**
My comments on a JAMA editorial by William G. Plested III, MD., Chair of the AMA Board of Trustees.
2. **OK, one more time**
Time is the **controlling factor** ONLY when . . .
3. **Becoming An Enlarger**
How To Become An Enlarger by Dr. John C. Maxwell

MAY 2004

1. **It's Worth More Than Pictures**
A letter from the CANP.
2. **Changes on the Horizon.**
Changes to CPT and ICD-9-CM coding. Sooner or later?
3. **The Value of Friends**
"A person is poor when he is friendless, but even poorer when he ceases being a friend."

JUNE 2004

1. **It's just my opinion**
What gives?
2. **What is a problem focused exam?**
I was so confused. I needed something that would detail for me just what each of these terms meant.
3. **High Achievements and Failures**
"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled . . .

JULY 2004

1. **It's just my opinion.**
Who is in charge of determining the billing level for services provided in your office?
2. **So many questions, So much confusion.**
There are three requirements to qualify for "incident to" billing.
3. **Choose your attitude.**
"We who lived in concentration camps can remember . . ."

AUGUST 2004

1. **It's just my opinion.**
They wanted to know if the prices had gone up. Now, I was embarrassed.
2. **Single Organ System Exams.**
The advantage for using Single Organ System Exams is in the focus aspect of the exam.
3. **Rules of Civility.**
Selections from George Washington's 110 *Rules of Civility*.

OCTOBER 2004

1. **It's just my opinion**
How could the provider defend his care or instructions to the patient when they hadn't been documented?
2. **Not Just Office Exams**
Do you feel like you get lost some times? So do I.
3. **Learn From Your Failures**
"If you're not experiencing failure, you're not working hard enough."

NOVEMBER 2004

1. **It's just my opinion**
"Never give up, never surrender."
2. **Consultations**
Often mistakenly considered to be for the exclusive use of specialists.
3. **Where do we go from here?**
Thanks to all who have made all of this a great success.

2005

JANUARY 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
After all, they often vote with their feet.
2. **Single Organ System Exams**
May I talk about Single Organ System Exams again?
3. **It works!**
". . . my gross reimbursement has increased by about 36%."

FEBRUARY 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
"Why don't you talk more about procedure codes?"
2. **Single Organ System Exams**
A look at the SOSE for SKIN
3. **MPECS Website Update**
I was finally able to figure out how to . . .

MARCH 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
The difficulty with the chart review was the lack of detail . . .
2. **If I see an established patient . . .**
It still may be possible to have a level 5 encounter . . .
3. **Quotes to Contemplate**
I am looking forward to a wonderful day.

APRIL 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
I recently saw the movie **Ladder 49**.
2. **ICD-10**
The **International Classification of Diseases . . .**
3. **A universal experience**
. . . frustration with the complexity of the Evaluation and Management (E/M) process.

MAY 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
Having providers audit their own charts is . . .
2. **It happened again**
Knowing the codes pays off, again.
3. **Heritage and Tradition**
Yesterday was Memorial Day.

JUNE 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
"I usually just code the visit at a lower level for patients without insurance, is that OK?"
2. **Cancer's Call**
"I do not have time for cancer. I do not have time to be a victim."
3. **Profitability**
When was the last time you . . .

JULY/AUGUST 2005

1. **It's just my opinion**
He said that most of the time, he just marked the "brief" office visit code.
2. **Two or Three Components?**
Elements of documentation revolve around seven areas of information.
3. **The Power of a Touch**
. . . we underestimate the power of a touch . . .

SEPTEMBER 2005

1. **It's Just My Opinion**
It is that time of year again . . . it is a tedious process to go through . . .
2. **E/M Code Modifiers**
You may have discovered that there are times when codes need a little help . . .
3. **The Mountain Story**
The voice answers, "You are a champion!"

OCTOBER 2005

1. **It's Just My Opinion**
It seems that for some providers, there is a real fear of coding. . .
2. **Speaking of Modifiers**
This month. . . modifiers 32, 52 and 57
3. **I need your help**
I have a message to share. . . immensely satisfying and enjoyable.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

1. **It's Just My Opinion**
I learned a long time ago that not everyone plays by the same rules . . .
2. **Looking Toward 2006**
Changes in coding for the new year . . .
3. **Merry Christmas and . . .**
It has truly been a fulfilling and exciting experience for me.

2006

JANUARY 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
. . . documentation is the key to successful coding and subsequent billing . . .
2. **E/M Coding Update**
. . . some codes have been eliminated completely . . .
3. **Abraham Lincoln**
You cannot strengthen the weak . . .

MARCH 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
Harsh reality sets in when they open a practice and have to pay . . .
2. **Your Medical Record; Is it up to snuff?**
There are as many ways to chart as there are providers

APRIL 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
We face some interesting competition in keeping patients in our practices
2. **Give Yourself A \$25,000 Raise**
. . . that by coding properly for patient encounters, they were able to realize \$25,000 in additional billings "without adding patients, services or staff."

MAY 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
I believe it to be a big mistake to neglect this part of medical practice.
2. **It's Not Just Bullets!**
Most providers are pretty good at documenting all of the bullets.
3. **Food For Thought**
Quotes from Alexander Graham Bell and Will Rogers

JUNE - JULY 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
Revisiting the Medical Record. What's Best?
2. **Medical Decision Making**
Easily, the most confusing and difficult part of E/M coding.
3. **Medical Decision Making MATRIX**
Tables 1, 2 & 3

AUGUST 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
Office efficiency and functionality. How's yours?
2. **Nature of Presenting Problem**
Another part of the Evaluation and Management Coding process.

SEPTEMBER 2006

1. **It's just my opinion**
Adversarial relationship with insurance companies
2. **Procedure Versus E/M Services**
Is it a procedure or an E/M code, or both?
3. **Food For Thought**
Perspective on the current Health Care crisis.

NOTICE: There were no issues for October - December 2006.

2007

Please note that there are NO newsletter Issues for February, April, May, June, October and December of 2007.

JANUARY 2007

1. **It's just my opinion**
So, where do we draw the line between appropriate and embellishment?
2. **New Year Tips**
Are you ready for the New Year? What have you done to get ready?
Here are some tips that should help.

MARCH 2007

1. **It's just my opinion**
Are you sick of hearing about "Reimbursement?" I am.
2. **Asset or Liability?**
How is your contribution to your medical practice profitability? Are you an asset or a liability?
3. **What Makes a Good Medical Record?**
The Basics. The medical record should . . .

JULY 2007

Don't Forget The Basics

AUGUST 2007

Why do I need to audit my charts?

SEPTEMBER 2007

Is It a 99212 or 99213?

NOVEMBER 2007

Random Thoughts
Time, Documentation, 2008

2008

Please note that there are NO newsletter Issues for January, February, March, May, September, October, November or December of 2007. Please see the April 2007 issue for explanation.

APRIL 2008

Question? When can I use single organ system exams?

JUNE 2008

Another Question? When my documentation doesn't support the level of billing I submit, what can I do?

2008 continued . . .

JULY 2008

Answering Questions . . . Credentialing, Incident To and Physician presence during patient encounters.

AUGUST 2008

It's Time To Update (CPT, ICD-9, HCPCS)
Implementing Electronic Health Records

2009

JANUARY 2009

Its Here, Its Finally Here. Well, Almost