

IMS Advocate

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Key legislation

HF 778/SF 236 – Allows local governments to adopt smoking bans. IMS supports.

SF 49 – Provides a .08 blood alcohol limit for motorboat or sailboat operating. IMS supports.

SF 203 – Requires minor children to wear personal flotation devices when aboard certain boats operated on state waters. IMS supports.

SF 382 – Requires insurance coverage benefits for treatment of mental illness. IMS supports.

SF 326 – Provides appropriation for a public awareness program for HPV vaccinations of low-income uninsured persons. IMS supports.

SF 478 – Addresses healing arts diagnoses and treatments by unlicensed persons. IMS opposes.

SF 522 – Relates to access during litigation to communications concerning health care and health care records and provides for fees. IMS opposes.

HF 744/SF 533 – Provides that debtors' personal injury structured settlements are exempt from creditors in legal actions. IMS opposes.

SF 538 – Relates to a parent's cause of action for the recovery of expense and loss related to injury or death of a child. IMS opposes.

SF 520 – Creates private cause of action for certain consumer fraud violations. IMS opposes.

HSB 244/SF 509 – Revises the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. IMS is monitoring.

Governor signs tobacco tax into law

On Thursday, Governor Culver signed **SF 128**. This bill increased the tax on cigarettes by \$1 a pack and became effective immediately. The revenues from this tax will be directed to health-related areas. IMS members are to be congratulated for their impressive grassroots efforts supporting this legislation. IMS has supported the tobacco tax increase because of the ramifications on public health.

The anti-tobacco legislation continues, however. This week, the Senate passed **SF 236**. This bill would allow Iowa cities and counties to enact anti-smoking ordinances. As the bill moves to the House, it is crucial that you contact your representatives. Please thank them if they voted in favor of the tobacco tax and let them know you also support local control of smoking regulations.

IBME receives name change

On Friday, March 9, Governor Culver signed **SF 74** into law. This bill renamed the 23 health-related examining boards within the Department of Public Health as licensing boards. This legislation reflects that the regulatory boards do more than test applicants for licensure. As a result, beginning July 1, 2007, these boards will receive name changes. At that time, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners (IBME) will be renamed the Iowa Board of Medicine.

IMS signs deal with athenahealth

IMS recently signed a contract to promote athenahealth practice management software to member practices. Athenahealth provides top-rated practice management and billing software. The software will reduce the amount of dollars sitting in accounts receivable by speeding up payment from insurance companies. This will result in a significant one-time increase in cash flow, plus timely ongoing collections. Payments are automatically electronically posted to patient accounts. This Internet-based software always contains the most current updates with no ongoing maintenance fees. Implementation fees of \$2,500 per physician have been waived for IMS members, who will also receive a 6% discount if all physicians in the practice are IMS members.

IMS and athenahealth will be giving demonstrations across Iowa during April and May. Look for a recently mailed brochure listing the locations and dates near you. There is no obligation by attending these free meetings; you will hopefully discover how this software can benefit your practice. Visit www.iowamedical.org for more information.

New MLN Matters article discusses PQRI

A new *MLN Matters* article (MM5558) with important information on the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) is now posted on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Web site. You can learn more and view the article at www.cms.hhs.gov/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/mm5558.pdf.



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DUR Commission issues call for new members

The Iowa Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Commission, composed of physicians and pharmacists, performs drug use review and educational interventions in an effort to improve medication use for Iowa Medicaid members. The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) encourages physicians to apply for a position on the commission. DHS is particularly interested in members that serve all age ranges in their practice. Any physician interested in serving should send a letter of interest and resume or CV to Shelly Larson, RPh, Director of Iowa Medicaid DUR, at slarson@dhs.state.ia.us. The application deadline is May 6, 2007. To learn more, contact Ms. Larson at (515) 725-1295 or visit www.iadur.org.

Hold off on using new CMS-1500 claim forms

In July 2006, the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) was revised by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC), predominantly to accommodate the National Provider Identifier. In September 2006, Medicare announced it would implement the revised Form CMS-1500 (08-05) on January 1, 2007, with dual acceptability of both versions until March 31, 2007. Medicare further announced that beginning April 1, 2007, the only acceptable version of the form would be the Form CMS-1500 (08-05) and that the prior version, Form CMS-1500 (12-90), would be rejected.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) learned that incorrectly formatted versions of the revised form were being sold by print vendors, specifically, the Government Printing Office. While this situation is being resolved, CMS has extended the acceptance period of the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) version beyond the original April 1, 2007, deadline. Medicare contractors will be directed to continue to accept the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) until notified by CMS to cease. At present, CMS is targeting June 1, 2007, as that date. Additionally, during the interim, contractors will be directed to return – not manually key – any CMS-1500 (08-05) version forms received which are not printed to specification. By returning the incorrectly formatted claim forms, providers will be made aware of the situation, allowing time to communicate with form suppliers.

NOTE: The best way to identify if your CMS-1500 (08-05) version forms are correct is by looking at the upper right hand corner of the form. On properly formatted claim forms, there will be approximately a ¼" gap between the tip of the red arrow above the vertically stacked word "CARRIER" and the top edge of the paper. If the tip of the red arrow is touching or close to touching the top edge of the paper, then the form is not printed to specifications.

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