

NEWS & NOTES FROM NPO



February 22, 2016

FEBRUARY 22, 2016 is:

1. National Be Humble Day
2. George Washington's Birthday
3. Cook a Sweet Potato Day!
4. National Margarita Day
5. Walking the Dog Day



AND...

NPO NEWSLETTER DAY!

- Blue Cross NDC Billing Requirement & Webinar 2/26/16
- 2015/2017 Meaningful Use Hardship Exception Application (due 3/15/16)
- Practice Security Reports
- Important Computer Safety Reminders
- Member Connections

Blue Cross NDC Billing Requirement (Webinar available 2/26/16 at noon)

In the February 2015 Record, Blue Cross stated:

On Feb. 1, 2015, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will require the correct national drug code and national drug code quantity information to be submitted on medical drug claims. We'll no longer calculate the NDC

quantity of medical drugs as of this date. If the NDC and NDC quantity is not provided, the minimum fee schedule will apply.

Then, recently in the December 2015 Record:

The daily quantity maximum is the number of units a National Drug Code can be billed on a single claim line for a particular date. Starting Jan. 1, 2016, when an NDC reaches or goes over its daily quantity maximum, professional providers will receive a new message on your provider voucher: We can pay for this service, but our payment policy has limits for this National Drug Code. This drug claim has a daily quantity maximum that's more than we can pay. We've based our payment and the member's liability on the eligible limit amount. (P610).

For example, if an NDC's quantity maximum is five per date of service and 15 are coded, the message will also say that there's been an adjustment in the reimbursement. Payment will be made for the first five units only. A participating professional provider shouldn't ask the member to pay more than the amount we allow.

There has been some confusion around these requirements. There are some resources available, in addition to your office's BC representative:

1. Blue Cross has provided an on-line tutorial at [National drug code billing for medical drug benefits overview](#)
2. MSMS has some materials available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).
3. eCW has some screens to assist [here](#).
4. **And, this Friday, 2/26/16 from noon to 1pm, NPO is hosting a webinar with Stacie Saylor, MSMS's Reimbursement Expert, to answer questions regarding this issue. Please call-in and ask your questions. Call-in information is:**
 - Material will be shown at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/753058525>
 - Audio is available by calling in using your telephone. Dial +1 (872) 240-3412 Access code: 753-058-525, AudioPIN: Shown after joining the meeting

2015/2017 Hardship Exception Application

Any NPO providers who bill Medicare and were unable to achieve Meaningful Use in 2015 need to submit a hardship exception application to avoid getting hit with a 3% reduction in their Medicare reimbursements in 2017. In previous years, EPs have had until July 1 to submit the application, **but this year the deadline is significantly sooner: March 15.** We were expecting the process to be different from previous years given some legislation President Obama signed at the end of 2015 (i.e. PAMPA), but it turns out that aside from needing a little less "proof" to justify the hardship you experienced, this year isn't all that different from last year. The categories you can choose from to justify the hardship are, for the most part, unchanged from last year.

[Click here to link to the application.](#)

PRACTICE SECURITY REPORTS

If your practice is connected to eEHX, you have probably noticed that NPO has been sending you a security report. This report is not intended to imply that anything inappropriate occurred. The report is designed to provide the practice with information on who is using eEHX in their practice and what



MEMBER CONNECTIONS

For job postings, office space, equipment for sale, etc, please

[CLICK HERE](#)

patients they are looking at (we only send you a list of patients where no electronically documented care relationship exists in our system). We ask that you notify us via e-mail that either the report showed no inappropriate access, or, if there was inappropriate access, the practice followed up according to their internal policies.

Two important computer safety reminders from Munson Healthcare in the wake of the California Hospital Ransomware attack:

Please take a moment to read and let staff know about allowing unknown people on their computers.

1-Do not open suspicious email! Suspicious or "Phishing" email is typically from someone you do not know - just clicking on a link in an email can infect Munson Healthcare computers and data.

2-Do not allow untrusted sources to access your computer. A untrusted source access attempt typically begins with a phone call "I'm from Microsoft and need to fix a critical security flaw" or something similar. If in doubt check it out by calling the Munson Healthcare Information Systems Help Desk at 231-935-6053. The Help Desk is a trusted source for computer issues, they are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This request is prompted by a crippling ransomware attack that happened earlier this month as a California Hospital. According to recent news articles the attack occurred on February 5th. The ransom extortion is for 9,000 bitcoins or \$3.6M as of Friday, it is unknown if this was paid yet. In an effort to keep essential business operations running (lab, radiology, HER/EMR, email, etc.) the facility turned to fax machines and pen with paper. Infosecurity Magazine is one of many that have published articles on this event: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/patients-sent-away-ransomware/>

Our biggest threat for ransomware infection is actions of individual workforce members. Blocking ransomware is difficult even with the latest and most sophisticated tools.

Please encourage all workforce members to be aware and alert for phishing and ransomware.

Thank You
Linda M. Bower
Information Security Officer
Munson Healthcare

QUICK LINKS

[NPO Website](#)

[NMHN Website](#)

[NPO Calendar](#)



Always feel free to contact us with any questions, or suggestions.

The NPO Newsletters are for you.

We would love your feedback.

THANKS!

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**NPO is committed to providing
great resources to our
members!**