



NEWS and NOTES from NPO

January 30, 2020

THINGS TO KNOW AND DO

MSMS PROVIDES OVERVIEW OF MAJOR E/M CODE REVISION COMING IN 2021

On November 1, 2019 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a provision in the 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule that includes revisions to the Evaluation and Management (E/M) office visit and CPT® codes (99201-99215) descriptors. Additionally, documentation standards that directly address the continuing problem of administrative burden for physicians are also to be revised. With these landmark changes, documentation for E/M office visits will now be centered around how physicians think and take care of patients and not on mandatory standards that encouraged copy/paste and checking boxes.

Full details have not been disclosed but an [MSMS Summary of E/M Revisions](#) and [AMA Summary Table](#) are available.

MSMS released an [overview](#) with a learning module and historical perspective that your practice may find beneficial.

METFORMIN AND ATORVASTATIN NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR FREE THROUGH MEIJER

On January 15th, 2020 Meijer Pharmacy stopped their program to provide Metformin and Atorvastatin to patients for free. This is system wide and covers all 245 outlets in the Midwest. Meijer will continue to offer the most commonly prescribed antibiotics along with prenatal vitamins for no charge to all customers.

Patients who previously obtained Metformin or Atorvastatin for free from Meijer will be impacted. The two medications are relatively inexpensive (Metformin ~ \$10/month and Atorvastatin ~ \$15 for 90 pills); however, even such low costs for medications can put medication treatment plans in jeopardy with some patients if they are balancing other treatment expenses. A [news story](#) of this change is available.

The NPO Pharmacy Team developed an Unaffordable Medication Assistance [algorithm](#) , and routinely uses the [GoodRX website](#) to find the lowest cost medications for patients.

MMC INFUSION CLINIC SERVICES AVAILABLE TO BCBS PATIENTS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2020

Previously, BCBS patients found it challenging to receive comprehensive infusion services at MMC due to limitations in contracting. As of 1/1/2020, the Cowell Family Cancer Center Infusion Clinic is now considered an approved location with BCBS improving options for BCBS patients who require services in our region.

Please fax your completed orders, patient demographics, and supporting office notes directly to the Infusion Suite at (231) 935-6979.

If additional clarification is needed, please call (231) 392-8454.

SAVE THE DATE: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PARTNERS IN PEDIATRIC CARE 2020 CME COURSE

University of Michigan is offering their Partners in Pediatric Care (PIPC) conference on Friday, May 15, 2020 at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sessions at this all-day conference will include topics in behavioral and mental health, pediatric orthopedics, social media, obesity, and many more that focus on the care of children and families. All health care professionals are invited to attend in person or stream the event online. sites will be

Conference registration is not yet open but details will be available on the conference [website](#).

SAVE THE DATE: NORTHWEST CHAPTER OF MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS 2020 SPRING CONFERENCE

Plan to join the Northwest Chapter of Michigan Society of Medical Assistants for a full day of CEUs in Traverse City. All allied health professionals are welcome to attend. Credits will be approved through the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) in areas of general, clinical and administrative.

[More information and printable registration form here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: DR. MARTY MAKARY COMING TO NORTHERN PHYSICIANS ORGANIZATION

NPO is bringing [Dr. Marty Makary](#), author of "[The Price We Pay: What Broke American Health Care - and How to Fix It](#)" to Traverse City for a Delivering Accountable Care discussion. He is the creator of the Surgery Checklist, publishing its first description and later served with the World Health Organization, working with Atule Gawande to create global measures of surgical quality. He serves as the Executive Director of [Improving Wisely](#), a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project to lower health care costs in the U.S. by creating measures of appropriateness in health care.

While this is in the heart Traverse City's busy summer season, our hope is that we will have an overwhelming turnout for Dr. Makary. Please put this date on your calendars now and plan to attend this very important session. More to come on this special engagement as additional details become available.

When: Tuesday July 21st, 2020 6-9 pm

Where: The Traverse City Golf and Country Club

There is a short [video](#) that provides a brief introduction into the context of the book.

Helpful Resources & Upcoming Events

[NPO 2020 Calendar](#)

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[MACRA-MIPS Corner](#)

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