

# OSS Advisory Newsletter



## **\* MANDATORY\***

### **Electronic Remittance Advice Package and Bulletins**

Beginning November 15, 2009, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) offered the ability to view remittance advice packages electronically. Currently, SCDHHS mails paper remittance packages to providers weekly.

The new electronic process will allow providers to access remittance advices and associated edit correction forms (ECFs) through the South Carolina Medicaid Web Based Claims Submission Tool (Web Tool).

In addition, providers will now have the ability to change their own passwords. Providers can view, save, and print their remittance advice(s) but not a remittance advice belonging to another provider. Remittance advices and ECFs for the most recent twenty five (25) weeks will be available.

**EFFECTIVE - FEBRUARY 15, 2010, SCDHHS WILL ONLY DISTRIBUTE REMITTANCE ADVICES AND ASSOCIATED ECFs ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE WEB TOOL.**

Providers are urged to use this new feature now so that any potential issues can be resolved prior to February 15, 2010. Providers can elect to have their paper remittance advice discontinued prior to February 15, 2010 by calling 1-888-289-0709. Distributing remittance advices and associated ECFs through the Web Tool is a more cost-effective and secure manner for

providers to receive this information. Also, providers will be able to access this information earlier. Paper remittance packages are mailed on Friday, which means that they are not available to providers until days later. Electronic remittance packages will be available no later than Friday.

Providers that currently use the Web Tool will be able to access this new feature on November 15, 2009. Providers that already have a Trading Partner Agreement (TPA) on file but are not current users of the Web Tool can contact the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Support Center at 1-888-289-0709 to register for a Web Tool User ID.

All other users that do not have a TPA on file must complete and return the SC Medicaid TPA Enrollment Form to:

SC Medicaid TPA, P.O. Box 17, Columbia, S.C. 29202.

The TPA outlines the requirement for electronic transfer of Protected Health Information (PHI) between SCDHHS and the provider. It can be accessed at

<http://www.scdhhs.gov/hipaa/Forms.asp> or by calling 1-888-289-0709.

Providers that are not sure if they have a TPA on file or have questions regarding the agreement, can contact the EDI Support Center at 1-888-289-0709.

If a provider utilizes a billing agent, and elects to have the billing agent access their electronic remittance package, both

the provider and the billing agent must have a TPA on file. The provider's TPA must name their billing agent. The billing agent's TPA must include the provider's name and Medicaid number.

To learn more about this new feature and how to access it, visit the SC Medicaid provider web site at:

<http://www.scm Medicaidprovider.org>

For a schedule of Web Tool training dates, click on "Training Options".

SCDHHS continues to offer the HIPAA compliant Health Care Claim Payment/Advice, ASC X12N 835 (004010X091A1). Providers interested in utilizing this electronic transaction should contact the EDI Support Center at 1-888-289-0709.

Thank you for your continued willingness to provide quality services to the beneficiaries of the South Carolina Medicaid Program. If you have any questions about the Trading Partner Agreement, training opportunities for this new feature, user IDs or passwords, please contact the EDI Support Center at the above number.

To sign up and receive electronic bulletins, you must go to

<http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov>

and subscribe to the Provider listserv.

If you have other questions about this bulletin, please contact your program manager.

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From the desk of Debbie Miller, RN - SCDHHS Nurse Consultant

We have just made it through the holidays and now it is time for the famous New Year's Resolutions. As Administration, Management and Direct Care-givers we need to consider our health in order to be at our best to provide care for our residents.

Here are ten possible New Year Resolutions for 2010:

1. Exercise regularly (at least three times a week and preferably once a day). For most people, walking is the simplest and safest form of exercise. One study reports that walking 30 minutes a day adds 1.3 years to a person's life. More strenuous types of exercise done in moderation and with proper pre- and post-exercise stretching is recommended. In order to increase your fitness level, exercise should increase your heart rate. Exercises involving balance and lightweight lifting can help prevent falls. In stationery exercises for arms, abdomen and legs, three sets of eight to 12 repetitions at least once a week are recommended.

2. A balanced diet is vital to good health. Some things are good to eat and some things are bad. On the "good" list is fiber from fruits and vegetables, raw nuts and whole grains. Elimination of "bad" things is difficult, but a diet that limits fat is a must. Salt also should be limited, even for people who aren't hypertensive. Refined sugar consumption should be limited for people with and without diabetes.

3. Drink approximately eight glasses of water per day (not carbonated drinks). The water you drink doesn't have to be bottled; tap water is just as good or better and is required for all bodily functions. The amount you drink should be determined by activity, humidity and age. To make sure that you are well hydrated, check the color of your urine. If it is dark gold, drink more. If it is like water, cut back.

4. Kick or reduce bad habits. Let's just focus on the main ones: smoking; not drinking in moderation (red wine in moderation can be beneficial); excessive use of caffeine drinks or other stimulants; and improper use of prescription, non-prescription, and illegal drugs.

5. Take vitamin supplements designed for specific ages and supplement the daily multi-vitamin with additional calcium. Consult with your physician on how much you need to prevent possible bone fractures.

6. Reduce stress, even though it may be easier to say than to do. Stress is defined generally as "things out of your control" that cause discomfort or threaten one's sense of security. Whether it is the bad economy or a family situation, it is important to find healthy ways of dealing with stress. Consider confiding in friends or trusted professionals. Other methods of coping include religious practices and helping someone in greater need. Stress contributes to many severe health problems, so it is important to deal with stress earlier, rather than later.

7. Sleep and rest are essential to wellness. Each person needs slightly different amounts. The average amount of sleep required is seven hours. If you are tired, get some rest. Exhaustion can lead to many illnesses.

8. Follow all regimens for disease management. Let's face it, as we age, we develop health problems. People with heart disease, arthritis, cancer, depression, diabetes, hypertension and other common problems should receive care from a physician. Follow the plan given to you by your physician.

9. See your physician at least once a year for a thorough evaluation. The so called "annual physical" is necessary for you and your doctor to evaluate your overall health, go over all medications, and prescribe any changes or tests that need to be performed under the "preventive maintenance" program that you and your physician have agreed upon.

10. Pay attention to the countless other voices of self-help and wellness. Ultimately, your health is your responsibility.



## **THERE IS NO COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) OSS ENTITLEMENT INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 01, 2010**

Law does not provide for a Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2010. With consumer prices down over the past year, this will be the first year without an automatic COLA since they went into effect in 1975. If you wish to see the details of the Social Security Administration press release you can view their press releases at [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

Effective with dates of service beginning January 01, 2010, the maximum payment made to a facility will remain \$1157.00. The Net Income Limit (NIL) will remain \$1157.00. The personal needs allowance will remain \$57.00 for category 86 residents and \$77 for category 85 residents. This means that the resident will continue to receive their \$57.00 or \$77.00 with dates beginning January 01, 2010. As in the past, the personal needs allowance must be deducted from other income that the resident receives rather than the OSS entitlement payment. The amount a facility may charge will remain \$1100.00, a \$35.00 increase from the previous \$1065.00 allowed in 2008.

The provider daily entitlement amounts that are being used to calculate your payments for January 2010 through December 2010 dates of service are as follows:

1. February (28 day month) \$41.32 a day,
2. April, June, September, November (30 day months) \$38.56 a day,
3. January, March, May, July, August, October, December (31 day months) \$37.32 a day.

The OSS entitlement payments made on behalf of residents to Community Residential Care Facilities are considered payment in full. Any differences caused by rounding in the payment system cannot be billed to the resident or deducted from the resident's personal needs allowance.

**\*\*See additional pages for the remaining pay dates for 2009/010 and the Personal Needs Allowance notice for posting.**



**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

**TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF  
OPTIONAL STATE SUPPLEMENTATION  
ENTITLEMENT FUNDS**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 01, 2010 THE  
PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE WILL  
REMAIN \$57.00 PER MONTH FOR CATEGORY  
86 RESIDENTS AND \$77 PER MONTH FOR  
CATEGORY 85 RESIDENTS.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO COLLECT THE  
CORRECT AMOUNTS \*\* \$57.00 OR \$77.00 \*\*  
FROM YOUR COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL  
CARE FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR  
BEGINNING JANUARY 01, 2010.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

## 2009/2010 PAYMENT DATES FOR OSS

November 2009 dates of service – January 01, 2010

December 2009 dates of service – February 05, 2010

January 2010 dates of service – March 05, 2010 (Entitlement amount remains the same for 2010 dates of service)

February 2010 dates of service – April 02, 2010

March 2010 dates of service – May 07, 2010

April 2010 dates of service – June 04, 2010

May 2010 dates of service – July 02, 2010

June 2010 dates of service – August 06, 2010

July 2010 dates of service – September 03, 2010

August 2010 dates of service – October 01, 2010

September 2010 dates of service – November 05, 2010

October 2010 dates of service – December 03, 2010

All dates are subject to change.