



February 2010

Feb. 9, 2010 Audio Conference
Stark Primer I: Principal Elements of the Stark Law
Bob Wade

Besides being a very complicated law, why is the Stark Act so important for health care providers? Simply stated, Stark is a strict liability statute. If the Stark Act is implicated (if you have a physician who has a financial relationship with an entity that provides designated health services to which the physician will refer), you must meet an exception, in all respects, or the entity billing for the service can be assessed a civil monetary penalty up to \$15,000 for each service billed, plus two times the reimbursement claimed, and can be excluded from Medicare and Medicaid participation. Furthermore, if the physician and the entity implemented a circumvention scheme, civil money penalties up to \$100,000 and exclusion can be imposed upon the persons who entered into the scheme.

This presentation will focus specifically on the historical background regarding the Stark Act and the important defined terms. Although Primer I will not go into many of the exceptions, understanding the basic tenants of the Stark Act is important to understanding the exceptions, which will be the focus of Primer II.

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Feb. 11, 2010 Audio Conference
Legal Pitfalls of Coding: What They Are and How to Avoid Them
Peter Keohane, JD, CPC, CHC

Healthcare fraud and abuse is constantly in the news. Federal and state auditors are increasing their efforts to target improper coding, billing and reimbursement. This can affect you as a coder as well as the provider. This program will discuss how coders are liable and what should be done to minimize risks.

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Feb. 16, 2010 Audio Conference
Pressure Ulcers
Irene Jankowski

Program information will be posted to our website (www.inquisit.org) shortly.

There is no fee for this educational program thanks to Hill-Rom

Feb. 18, 2010 Audio Conference
The Joint Commission – The Provision of Care Standards
Judith M. Atkins, RN, MSN

Hear this exciting education about The Joint Commission's Provision of Care Chapter. It will review issues like Moderate Sedation, Pain Assessment and Reassessment, Restraints, Care Planning, Patient and Family Education and Assessment and Reassessment.

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Feb. 19, 2010 Audio Conference

EMTALA On-Call Physician Update 2010

Sue Dill Calloway, RN, MSN, JD

The new interpretive guidelines were issued by CMS on May 29, 2009 and contain many changes. Every hospital that has an emergency department and accepts Medicare and Medicaid patients has to follow the federal law on the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). Hospitals without emergency departments have to comply with EMTALA if they have specialized capabilities. Hospitals will need to amend their policies and procedures and training to comply with the new interpretive guidelines including the physician on-call policy. The new regulations include an expanded section for on-call physicians and the shared and community care plan process. CMS and the OIG recommend that all hospitals provide EMTALA on-call training to their physicians. This webinar will provide the information to do this.

A new case will be discussed that is going to create an enormous expansion of hospital liability under the federal law. The Moses case overruled the CMS regulation that EMTALA ended when the hospital admitted the patient in good faith. Hospitals need to make sure their policies are followed to avoid EMTALA violation. Plaintiff attorneys are more frequently trying to get an issue framed as an EMTALA violation.

This federal regulation is very complicated and this program is structured to make it understandable and give concrete examples to help both physicians and hospital staff to understand the physician on-call requirements. Attendees of this program have repeatedly made the comment that they were finally able to understand and apply the law to their facility.

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Feb. 23, 2010 Audio Conference

RACs, MICs and ZPICs: Who's Looking at Your Claims:

Peter Keohane, JD, MPH, CPC, CHC

Waste, fraud and abuse has long been a significant drain on the federal payer programs. Now the government is tackling these "improper payments" head-on, and you are in the crosshairs. New federal legislation has expanded the scope of government audits and investigations, and there is a new "alphabet soup" of organizations who will review your Medicare and Medicaid claims more carefully than ever. Can your claims stand up to the scrutiny?

This 60-minute audio conference will give you new insight into how the government plans on tackling waste, fraud and abuse in 2010.

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Best Practice...Laboratory Standardization: The Operational and Financial Benefits Realized at Intermountain

1.0 hour for laboratory professional (CMLE, P.A.C.E. and California)

1.0 hour for materials professionals

Taking the Mystery Out of The New Restraint and Seclusion Guidelines for Hospitals
1.5 hour for nurses in all 50 states

The Role of Supply Chain Management in Specialty Clinical Services
1.0 hour for nurses in all 50 states
1.0 hour for materials management

HIPAA Breach Notification
1.5 hours for nurses in all 50 states

1.5 hours for American Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

1.5 hours for American College of Clinical Pathologists for Laboratory

1.5 hours California Laboratory