



California Rheumatology Alliance

April 2014 Newsletter

CRA 10th Annual Meeting - Early Bird Discount ends 4/17/14

Have you registered for the 10th Annual Medical & Scientific Meeting yet? Register today to take advantage of the Early-Bird discount and secure your spot to hear from our amazing faculty of forefront thought leaders. Prices increase on April 18, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco, CA. The course is approved for 6.75 AMA PRA Category I Credits.

Click [here](#) to register today. A course brochure and information on hotel reservations is available online [here](#).

Senate Delays SGR and ICD-10 until 2015

Hours before the 16th Medicare physician payment patch was set to expire, the Senate passed "The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014" (H.R. 4302), which delays the cut until April 1, 2015. The current 0.5% update will be extended through December 31, 2014, and frozen until March 31, 2015. H.R. 4302 contains several other "extenders," including delaying ICD-10 implementation by one year until October 1, 2015.

New CMS-1500 Claim Form Effective April 1, 2014

Starting April 1, 2014, Medicare will only accept paper claims on the revised CMS-1500 claim form (click here for a sample form), version 02/12 which has been updated for ICD-10.

Below are key dates for compliance with the claim submission rules:

- Medicare began accepting claims on the revised form, version 02/12, on January 6, 2014;
- Medicare will continue to accept claims on the old form, version 08/05, through March 31, 2014;
- On April 1, 2014, Medicare will only accept paper claims on the revised CMS-1500 claim form, version 02/12; and
- On and after April 1, 2014, Medicare will no longer accept claims on the old CMS-1500 claim form, version 08/05.

Please visit the Noridian [website](#) for additional information.

Governor Enacts Continuity of Care Law

On March 20, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation (AB 369) into law ensuring the continuity of care for patients with serious health conditions whose insurance plans were cancelled based on non-compliance with the Affordable Care Act. Effective immediately, insurers are required to arrange for the completion of services for serious chronic conditions and select other conditions by non-participating providers for newly covered individuals whose prior coverage was cancelled between December 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. Approximately 900,000 Californians whose policies had been cancelled during that period may benefit.

For additional information, please contact Amanda Chesley at (847) 264-5930 or via email at amanda@wjweiser.com

CRA Calls on California Legislature to Introduce Specialty Tier Legislation

The CRA strongly supports initiatives at both the federal and state level to limit the use of "specialty tiers" by insurers in which patients are required to cover a percentage of the specialty medication price rather than a fixed co-payment. A bipartisan federal proposal entitled "The Patients' Access to Treatments Act" ([H.R. 460](#)) would require insurers to place specialty medications within the same classification as off-formulary non-preferred brand medications. H.R. 460, currently assigned to House Committees, is backed by the CRA, Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, American College of Rheumatology, and Arthritis Foundation.

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For more information, visit
www.calrheum.org