

Medical Services Committee Report

July 5, 2008

Chair: Glenn Littenberg, MD, FACP

Written by: Susan Sprau, MD, FACP – President

The Medical Services Committee is increasing its membership. Please contact Glenn Littenberg if you are interested in serving on this committee. Current members include: Mort Field, FACP (ACP Carrier Advisory Committee representative), ex-officio Art Lurvey (Medical Director Palmetto/GBA), Joan Feltman, FACP, and Susan Sprau, FACP.

In October, 2008, the Committee met with NHIC to clarify documentation required for prolonged services (an article regarding this is on our ACP chapter website) as well as challenging some of the denials which are affecting our members statewide.

Since then, CMS announced that it is changing its Contractor for California to Palmetto/GBA. This transition will occur in early September, 2008. Anyone who is interested in reviewing the Local Coverage Determination Rules which will be implemented at the changeover, should follow these instructions:

1. Go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/updateperiod_criteria.asp
2. Click on **Select Contractors**
3. For **01102** (Northern CA) , scroll down and click on **Palmetto GBA (01102, MAC - Part B)**
4. For **01192** (Southern CA), scroll down and click on **Palmetto GBA (01192, MAC - Part B)**
5. Under **Select Database Update**, select **06/08/2008** and **06/15/2008** to view the LCDs.
6. Click on **Submit Report** and LCDs will appear

Please notify Glenn Littenburg of any problem areas you identify.

In addition, Susan Sprau worked with UCLA-Santa Monica Orthopedic Hospital and Doug Hegstad, FACP (So Calif Region 2) to improve the service provided by a private dialysis company that many Southern California hospitals use to improve urgent/emergency dialysis for inpatients. They were informed by UCLA-SMH-Ortho Hospital administration that the situation has improved.

Glenn is currently in negotiations with CMS to allow physicians to use high speed internet for electronic billing of Medicare claims. Apparently there is a rule limiting electronic billing to modems only, which is less efficient and more prone to errors/system compatibility problems than internet.