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# The MOMI Monitor

*Monitoring the pulse of Healthcare for YOU!*

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## DEPT OF LABOR

### WORK/COMP ENROLLMENT

All providers must re-enroll with ACS. This is for the federal employees injured on the job. This is not the same thing as enrolling in Texas Work/Comp, it has to be done in addition to. You can call their provider enrollment unit at 1-866-335-8319 for an enrollment packet. If you are not re-enrolled by 12/31/03, all submitted bills will deny. If you need assistance, please call MOMI's credentialing department at 200-4067.

Plastic Surgery	+17.97%
Radiology	-25.47%
Urology	+19.93%

Also, there are physician training requirements in the workers' compensation system. For Level 1 training, doctors may choose to take the course through a hard copy format or through the Internet and must be renewed every two years. For Level 2, these same options are available, and there will be Commission-approved seminars for which the Commission is seeking CME credit. The Level 2 training must be renewed every 4 years. Since Texas physicians must obtain at least 24 hours of CME per year, a doctor may comply with Level 1 or 2 training without spending any more time or money than is spent today. Thus, the Commission concludes that its training requirements do not impose significant additional costs on Texas physicians. The 25% premium above Medicare that will be paid in the Texas workers' compensation system should be sufficient to induce doctors to take the training necessary to continue to treat these patients. Physicians are not required to treat covered workers but must accept Commission-set fees if they do so.

## TEXAS WORK/COMP REIMBURSEMENT & TRAINING CHANGES

Below are the percentage changes for individual and typical providers and practice groups from 1996 to 2002, based on 125% of Medicare:

Allergy	+6.48%
Anesthesia	+10.90%
Dermatology	+28.99%
Emergency Med	+15.28%
General Practice	+9.94%
General Surgery	-2.74%
Internal Medicine	+10.82%
Neurology	-10.69%
Occupational Med	+23.84%
Orthopaedic Surg	+1.63%
Pathology	-11.79%
Phys Med & Rehab	+5.38%

## **NEW DX FOR PAP/PELVIC EXAMINATION SVCS**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued two new diagnosis codes for low-risk patients for screening Pap smear and pelvic examination services, which will become effective Oct 1, 2003. The two new additional diagnosis codes are V76.47 and V76.49. Code V76.49 has been added for providers to use for women without a cervix.

## **CLAIMS PAYMENT PROBLEMS AFTER OCT 16<sup>th</sup>**

Many providers may be in for a shock on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and after. This is the date you had to start filing your claims electronically in compliance with the HIPAA transactions and code sets (TCS) standards. You may find that the plans and other payors you work with aren't ready to process and accept claims using the new electronic formats. This could result in serious payment delays and potentially severe cash flow problems for you. Even if your billing system has been upgraded and sent test claims to the payors you work with, you should still expect and prepare for a cash flow delay. Despite their efforts, a substantial number of private payors and several states don't expect to be fully compliant and ready to process electronic claims by Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. Providers shouldn't discount the potential for disruptions as yet another computer scare, this is a far more comprehensive issue involving both format and content of the data. If any system in the chain of claims payments is impaired, whether it belongs to a provider, a vendor, a plan, or the government, everyone will be hurt. A few steps to take now to keep your organization financially sound while your claims may be held up is to set

aside cash reserves and/or establish a line of credit. MOMI has been preparing for this HIPAA transaction deadline for over a year and all areas on MOMI's end are done. We are hoping for a clean transition with the payors but will try and keep a close eye on this issue.

## **MOMI HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

MOMI will be closed in observance of the holidays on the following days:

November 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, Friday  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, at noon, Wednesday  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
December 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, Thursday

Please let us know your holiday schedule ASAP, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

## **MOMI MGMT. CONTACTS 254-634-6999**

Provider Relations-	Brenda Ford
Accounts Payable-	Vicki Biels
Credentialing-	Vicki Biels
Human Resources-	Brandi Flores
Operations-	Susan Edwards
MIS Department-	Gloria Quevedo
MIS Department-	Richard Hurley
Payment Posting-	Janet Reeder
Surgery Dept-	Sarah Abney
Rad/Path Dept-	Alana McDonald
Anesthesia Dept-	Joelene Gallegly
Primary Care Dept-	Janice Harris
Administration-	Nancy Finch

All of the above have direct phone numbers to their desks and email addresses. Please let us know if you would like us to make that available to you.

**[Please check out next month's MOMI Monitor to read about our new interactive website.](#)**