

SMAC UPDATE for SHAV Convention 2014

State Medicare Administrative Consultant

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I am still in Ohio and cannot attend convention, so I am asking Vice-President Scott Rankins to share this ASHA SMAC information. Thank You, Scott!

- **SNF Ethics Issues**: ASHA staff met with APTA and AOTA Presidents, Ex. Directors and Reimbursement staff on 2/20/14 re: 85%-90% productivity requirement; pressure to increase frequency of tx; SLPs being told to cut evaluations short secondary to Medicare Part A SNF eval. minutes not being counted towards a higher RUG level; supervisors practicing without a license by telling SLP (if not an SLP) to keep pt. on caseload longer, etc. All three associations continue to have these similar issues. Future meetings will be held with NASL and AHCA, NARA,OIG; perhaps congresspersons. Mark Kander noted this is insulting to our profession and to all clinicians and that these employers are stealing from SLPs. Discussion followed; this SMAC suggested Mark Kander meet with Carol Hofbauer, SMAC-Ohio from Laurel Healthcare in Columbus to see how things can be very profitable without treating SLPs unprofessionally. Her company's retention rate for SLPs is great; they make money and it's a good example of how things should be. The rest of the SMACs will send specific names of people, examples of bad behavior and companies to Mark individually who they know are engaging in these practices. If you have someone or a company you would like put on the list, just send me an email. It can be anonymous. (sallyjmac@aol.com)
- **RACS (Recovery Audit Contractors)**: New contracts and new rules in all four regions. Current pause in all new medical reviews. (But expect increased MAC (Medicare Administrative Contractor) reviews.
- **TEP (Tracheo-Esophageal Puncture Prosthesis)Advocacy**: Meeting scheduled with voice group and manufacturers re: low Medicare payment (approx. 50%) & restrictions in purchase by beneficiaries. Users unable to purchase their own backup device.
- **SGDs (Speech Generating Devices)**: conversion to a capped rental; after 13 months pt. can own it. This makes no sense; rental is not appropriate for SGDs. ASHA staff meeting with CMS and DME (Durable Medical Equipment) coalition.
- **CAHABA MAC(in Tn,Al, Ga.)**:Has rejected ASHA Regulatory Analysis Director's request to include new evaluation codes in their LCD (Local Coverage Determination). We are requesting 92521 (Fluency); 92524 (voice); and 31579 (videostroboscopy), Based on their rationales, Mark Kander expects that the ASHA reconsideration request will be successful.
- **CARE form**: Update regarding the single form that applies to discharge from every facility type. This applies to post-acute bundling demonstration project.

- **G-Codes:** No new problems reported from the state reps. Send any issues to Mark Kander. (mkander@ASHA.org)
- **CMS “Physician Compare” site:** Additional data will be included for speech-language pathologists and audiologists. All Medicare beneficiaries will have access.
- **Advantage Plans:** Therapy co-pays will be \$40 in Fiscal Year 2015.