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www.mai-ny.org

EDITOR

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Practice Manager Meeting

Next Meeting: October 3rd,
2018

No meeting in the summer,
but know we are here to
assist you with any practice
issues if you need us.

Have a great summer!

Please visit www.mai-ny.org.
Registration is simple, quick, and
limited to current members!

NEED HELP?

- Practice Management Problems
- Claims Issues
- Medical Policy Concerns
- Staff Training
- Customer service

Call Carolee Hildenbrandt
at 212-953-1504 or email:
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Brand Formulary Compliance (BFC)

In all our bonus plans, we are tasked with the goals of improving health, increasing better outcomes, improving the patient experience, and supporting affordable care.

Prescribing Generic Drugs meet these objectives.

- On average, patients pay \$30 less in out-of-pocket for Brand Formulary Drugs compared to Brand Non-Formulary. This will improve medication adherence when cost is a barrier.
- Efficiency is increased by electronic prescribing (eRx) and electronic prior authorization (ePA). Both eRx and ePA are associated with BFC rates (brand formulary compliance).
- Make Medication Reconciliation a part of your patient encounter to insure patients are on appropriate and useful medications.

Language Assistance

For patients with LEP – [Limited English Proficiency], physicians in NYS, especially those who participate in MC/MCD, should provide language assistance for such patients.

Acceptable options include hiring bilingual staff, using interpreters or telephone interpreters' service. AT&T USADirect connects to a variety of language assistance programs. Pricing and information can be had by calling (831) 648-7562.

Medicare pays for an Annual Depression Screening

The benefit covers one (1) screening for depression over a 12 month period in a Primary Care setting. The service code is **G0444**, attached as modifier **25** to the E/M code related to the visit. Because this is a Medicare Preventative Service, there is no deductible or coinsurance.

The patient health questionnaire (PHQ-9) is the most frequently used screening tool. It is a 9 question self-administered survey. The survey is online at www.acponline.org.

This test does not diagnose depression, but rather indicates the severity of depression symptoms within a given time frame. It is best to have arranged referral sources for patients who need follow-up. One resource is the Rapid Access Service Ambulatory Psychiatry, at Maimonides Medical Center @ (718) 283- 7864.