

---

---

# HNS Network News



## *Current News*

Quarter 3, 2009

---

---

### **Save The Date!!!**

**April 16, 17, & 18**

#### **HNS Free CE Seminar**

Our Free CE Seminar for **2010** is scheduled for **April 16, 17, and 18**, so please mark your calendars now and...

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Dr. Art Croft will be presenting the final module of his program for certification in Brain Injury Traumatology. Additionally, to assist you with meeting the new NC BOE CE requirements, our 2010 CE Seminar will also be offering 6 hours of CE on Documentation, Coding and Compliance, as well as 6 hours on Ethics and Professional Boundaries.

So please take a moment to **save this date** on your 2010 calendar! We look forward to seeing you at the CE seminar and the **HNS Cocktail Reception** on Saturday night, April 17th.

### **FREE ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION!**

**4 New CE Hours Available online**

The continuing education course "Documentation, Coding and Compliance for Proper Reimbursement," presented by Dr. Mario Fucinari, is now available FREE on the secure section of our website at [www.healthnetworksolutions.net](http://www.healthnetworksolutions.net).

Dr. Mario Fucinari, a well-known NCMIC speaker and consultant for chiropractic documentation and billing procedures, provides an excellent program on documentation, coding, and compliance.

The 4 hour continuing education web seminar is approved for CE credits by both the NC BOE and the SC BOE. After passing the 10 question quiz, an email will be sent to you (and to HNS) confirming your 4 CE credit hours. On your behalf, HNS will report those earned credit hours to your state Chiropractic Board of Examiners.

If you have any questions regarding Dr. Fucinari's seminar, please contact your HNS Provider Representative for assistance.

# RED FLAG RULES

## All Providers Must Comply

### **Deadline Delayed until November 1, 2009**

To give creditors (physicians) and financial institutions more time to review the Red Flag Rules and to develop and implement the required written Identity Theft Prevention Programs, the FTC has delayed the enforcement of the rule until November 1, 2009.

**To assist you with compliance to this new ruling, a template for your Red Flag Policy was sent to all HNS providers in the June 30, 2009 check cut packet.**

If you need another copy of the policy, contact your HNS Provider Representative for assistance.

## WANT TO INCREASE YOUR MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT?

### **NCQA Back Pain Recognition Programs (BPRP) Approved by Medicare Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative for 2009**

*The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)* has accepted the Back Pain Recognition Program for measuring group reporting for the purposes of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). Physicians, chiropractors and nurse practitioners who have earned BPRP Recognition from the NCQA now have the opportunity to enjoy an extra benefit: they may opt to have NCQA submit their clinical quality data to Medicare for use in the PQRI.

Providers participating in Medicare's PQRI program receive financial rewards for collecting and reporting practice data about the quality of their care. **In 2008, that reward was equal to 1.5 percent of each Medicare FFS Part B claim; in 2009 it rose to 2 percent.**

#### **Ways to join:**

**1. For BPRP Recognized providers:** Clinicians, who are already recognized by NCQA, would have to submit their qualifying data from the 2009 reporting period to receive PQRI incentive payments. In addition, each clinician must provide NCQA with a written authorization that his/her data can be shared with CMS. 30 patients rather than the 25 necessary for Recognition are required in the submittal, and data must be submitted on at least 2 Medicare Fee for Service patients. The submission fee is \$150 (per clinician) for resubmitting data for PQRI.

**2. For providers currently applying for or considering applying for NCQA's BPRP program:** Eligible providers should submit to NCQA their Recognition Program application along with a written authorization from each clinician that his/her data can be shared with CMS. 30 patients rather than the 25 necessary for Recognition are required in the submittal, and data must be submitted on at least 2 Medicare Fee for Service patients. NCQA is providing clinicians with this opportunity to qualify for the 2009 PQRI registry as an added feature to the Recognition process.

"Physicians and others who participate in PQRI through NCQA Recognition enjoy the two-fold benefit of being recognized for superb care, as well as being rewarded by Medicare for reporting clinical data," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane.

For more information, including instructions and frequently asked questions, visit NCQA Web site at [www.ncqa.org/Recognition](http://www.ncqa.org/Recognition).

**News Release:**  
**Posted October 2, 2009**

## **ACA's Efforts to Restore DC Physician Status in Federal Health Plan Successful**

(Arlington, Va.) After months of intensive negotiations between the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) and Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), doctors of chiropractic are once again designated as “physicians” in the BCBSA Federal Employee Plan (FEP), the world’s largest health plan and one that President Obama has identified as a template for future health care reform. The 2010 FEP benefits brochure confirms the change.

“We are pleased to report that doctors of chiropractic are in the physician category under the Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employees Benefit Plan, limited only by state scope of practice authorization,” said ACA President Rick McMichael, DC. “The agreement culminates months of negotiations between the ACA and BCBSA and assures that a doctor of chiropractic will be identified and defined as a ‘physician’ in the FEP. This plan has been specifically and repeatedly identified by Congress and President Obama as the template for coverage and recognition in national health care reform. Physician status under this health plan is critical, and ACA action has assured that this status is once again recognized.”

“We believe this action will be viewed by future doctors of chiropractic as a landmark development in the history of this profession, assuring our rightful role as physicians in the national health care system,” Dr. McMichael continued. “Our hats are off to ACA’s Immediate Past President Dr. Glenn Manceaux and past Chairman of the Board Dr. John Gentile, who led the ACA team’s charge in this effort. We call now on all doctors of chiropractic to join us in the battles that still lie ahead.”

It was in January of this year that BCBSA changed the designation of doctors of chiropractic from “physicians” to “other health care providers.” ACA immediately recognized that the change could have a serious impact on whether DCs would be allowed to provide the physician-level services they are educated and licensed to perform—and could even influence whether chiropractic care would be restricted or completely excluded in a national health care plan using the FEP as a model. ACA promptly contacted BCBSA and requested that the designation be reversed.

While BCBSA stated that the change would not affect benefits, some plans apparently misinterpreted the intent of the change and have restricted services such as examinations, X-rays and therapeutic modalities. In addition, some DCs have been prohibited from referring FEP patients for other services, including diagnostic and physical and occupational therapy services. DCs who are still encountering these problems under the FEP should contact the ACA Insurance Relations Department at [Insinfo@acatoday.org](mailto:Insinfo@acatoday.org).

The BCBSA FEP is the largest privately underwritten health insurance contract in the world, enrolling 4 million federal government employees, dependents and retirees.

The American Chiropractic Association is the nation’s leading chiropractic organization representing more than 15,000 doctors of chiropractic and their patients.

## EMG's and Nerve Conduction Studies (Important BCBS Reminder)

**ONLY** chiropractors who are *Diplomates of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board (DACNB)* can perform nerve conduction studies and EMG's for BCBS members (provided that such services are covered by the member's health plan.)

BCBSNC recently notified HNS that many of our providers are not complying with BCBSNC Corporate Medical Policy regarding EMG's and Nerve Conduction Studies. In February of 2009, HNS announced the updated *EMG and Nerve Conduction Policy*. This information was also included in our 2009 first quarter newsletter, added to the *HNS Provider Instruction Manual* and the *HNS Practice Protection Plan*, as well as the "What's New" section of our website.

**If you have received payments for these services and you are not a Diplomat of the ACNB, BCBSNC will be recouping ALL monies paid to you for these services.** Also, please be aware that failing to adhere to BCBS Corporate Medical Policy makes you a likely target for BCBSNC post payment audits.

In order to bill BCBS for Nerve Conduction Studies and EMG's, your name must be included on the list of certified chiropractic neurologists on the **ACNB website** ([www.acnb.org](http://www.acnb.org)). (If you are a DACNB and your name does not appear on this website, please contact the ACNB immediately. Request that they update the website to include your name and status so that you may provide and bill for these services.)

There are currently only three HNS providers listed on the ACNB website and as such, these three providers are the **only HNS network providers eligible** to bill BCBS for EMG's and Nerve Conduction Studies.

**Dr. Thomas Ahart  
Dr. Mark Pustaver  
Dr. Michael Trayford**

So please remember, unless you are one of these three network providers, **you cannot bill for EMG's or Nerve Conduction Studies for BCBS members.**

**To stay *In the Know...*  
check out the "What's New" section  
of our website at:**

**[www.healthnetworksolutions.net](http://www.healthnetworksolutions.net)**