



**Medicare announces approval of condition codes:**

Medicare has finally released the new list of ambulance condition codes. CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) has recognized that the ambulance industry needs its own unique coding system. Even though ambulance providers don't "diagnose," for years they have had to use the ICD-9 diagnosis codes in order to get their claims processed. Now, the newly-released condition codes promise to be the first step in moving ambulance claim practices into the 21st century! This is one of the most significant reimbursement developments since the implementation of the Medicare fee schedule - so it is important to be aware of how these new codes will impact your practice. We will of course keep you posted as more information becomes available. (See following article.)

For more Medicare information for Ambulance Services, log onto their web site at:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/ambulance/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/ambulance/)



**Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC Presents:**

**The Condition Codes are Here:  
Make Them Work to Your Advantage!**

Thursday, January 13, 2005  
12:00pm - 1:30

PWW will be presenting the above audio conference. Based on prior audio conferences which we have participated in, I can assure you that this one will be worth your time. They charge for their audio conferences based on telephone connections. In other words, you may have as many people as you want listening in for one registration fee. We have registered for this conference and would like to invite anyone who would like to join us to do so. We will even provide the handouts and lunch! If it is not convenient to come to our location, perhaps some of you would prefer to register on your own and invite other local districts or departments to share the costs (\$190.00). To do so, log onto the PWW web site at:

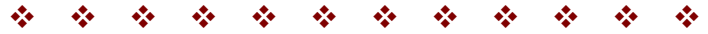
[pwwemslaw.com](http://pwwemslaw.com)

If you plan on joining us at Systems Design, please notify Shelley Brewington by Monday, January 10 at:

[ShelleyB@SystemsDesignNW.com](mailto:ShelleyB@SystemsDesignNW.com)

-or-

1-800-585-5242



**Group Health and Kaiser paying incorrectly:**

Group Health and Kaiser continue to knowingly overpay on their Medicare claims. In order to limit your continued exposure we have created in house procedures which essentially means having our staff doing the jobs of Group Health and Kaiser's claims processors. Meanwhile we have been working with them to get their rates corrected. We will keep you informed.

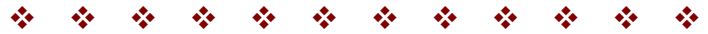


**Holiday Schedule:** Our office will be closed:

Thursday, Dec 23rd from 12:00pm

Friday, Dec 24th all day

Friday, Dec 31st all day



**Final Notice**



**Newsletter Online:** Beginning in January, 2005, the EMS Billing Issues newsletters will be available online only. If you haven't already done so, send us your e-mail address so we can notify you whenever a new issue is available. Feel free to add multiple members of your staff so everyone can receive their own notification. Send an e-mail with 'Newsletter' in the subject line to:

[RogerZ@SystemsDesignNW.com](mailto:RogerZ@SystemsDesignNW.com)



As we look back over another very good year, we would like to take this time to thank all of you for your continued support. I can honestly say that it is a real pleasure working with you all and hope you find dealing with all of us at Systems Design to be an enjoyable and mutually beneficial relationship.

*Warmest Holiday Greetings from the entire staff at  
Systems Design Northwest!*