



Newsletter Online: In the future, we will begin publishing the newsletter online only. Check it out on our web site:

www.SystemsDesignNW.com

Click on 'Ambulance Billing Services' in the left side column, then 'Newsletters' to get to the most current newsletter, as well as all back issues. If you would like to be notified when a new newsletter has been posted, send us your e-mail address and we will add you to the list. 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

Also: check out our smiling faces in the 'Meet the Staff' link!



Signatures revisited: In the last newsletter we went into quite a bit of detail regarding the patient signature requirements. The one area we neglected to discuss was if we need to see a copy of the signature in our office. Our response in the past has been 'No, we don't need to see a copy in our office, as long as you have it in your office.' This continues to be the case.

However, in the near future, we will be sending out an addendum to our professional services contract which will stipulate that you are responsible for getting the patient's signature. If you choose to not sign the addendum, we will then require that all transports include a copy of the patient's signature when they are sent to our office.



Mileage Documentation: From the mouth of Medicare: 'Actual odometer readings are recommended, but not required in order to bill for transportation services. HOWEVER, if a claim is reviewed, it *may be required*.' In other words, if you know for a fact that a claim will not be reviewed, you are not required to get an odometer reading. Yeah, right... Bottom line - it is best to setup a procedure to obtain odometer readings for each transport.



Welcome new clients: The following new clients have been added to our client base since the beginning of the year. Thanks to your referrals and recommendations we continue to grow. Thanks!

- ♦ Snohomish 8 - Lake Stevens
- ♦ City of Lynden
- ♦ N. Whatcom Fire & Rescue (Whatcom 3 & 13)
- ♦ Whatcom 7
- ♦ Whatcom 8
- ♦ Wahkiakum 3 (Grays River)
- ♦ Lewis 3 (Mossyrock)
- ♦ East Pierce Fire & Rescue (Pierce 22)
- ♦ North Tongass Fire (Ketchikan, AK)



Transports if not medically necessary: Remember, Medicare and most insurance companies will only pay for a transport if it is medically necessary. Medicare defines medically necessary as:

- ✓ Unconscious or in shock
- ✓ Needed to be restrained due to condition
- ✓ Required oxygen (not O2 maintenance)
- ✓ Required emergency treatment
- ✓ Was transported as a result of an emergency situation or acute illness or injury.
- ✓ Had to remain immobile due to a possible fracture.
- ✓ Was hemorrhaging
- ✓ Sustained an acute CVA or MI
- ✓ Was bed confined and could only be moved by stretcher.



Upcoming topics:

- Condition codes
- Rural Mileage reimbursement

Suggestions? Please let us know if there are any subjects you would like to see addressed in future issues of this newsletter.

