



What's up Doc? case management news

Extra diagnostic testing can cost hospitals big bucks!

Inappropriate diagnostic testing and procedures, as well as **outpatient procedures performed in the inpatient setting** are causing hospitals to lose large amounts of money. Third-party payers are frequently denying the claims.

Often patients come in with one acute care diagnosis and the physician orders diagnostic testing for other complaints that have no correlation to the acute care condition that prompted the admission.

For instance, a patient

came in with pneumonia and also complained of leg pain for several months, so the doctor ordered an MRI. The chronic leg pain had nothing to do with the acute reason the patient was admitted, so the facility is utilizing expensive resources for which there will be no additional reimbursement.

MRIs of the extremities or spine for chronic pain rarely can be justified in the acute care setting unless there was a recent injury.

Another example might be a patient who comes to the Emergency Room with a possible GI bleed, is hospitalized, stabilized, and subsequently receives an EGD.

If the patient is asymptomatic, has a stable H&H, vital signs, and isn't passing or vomiting bright red blood, an inpatient EGD may **possibly** be questioned by the payers and may not be reimbursed.

MEDICARE SAYS: Once a patient is stable he or she can be worked up on an OUTPATIENT BASIS!

Another area of concern is ordering the same test on subsequent days when the results of the first one are within normal limits and the patient is asymptomatic. An example would be a blood count several days in a row for patient hospitalized with GI bleeding.

Is it Medically Necessary?

Does the test/procedure relate to the admit diagnosis or condition?

- When ordering test and procedures in the acute care setting, question if the

test/procedure is related to the admitting diagnosis or can this be done as an outpatient after discharge?

- Utilization of resources is at its highest focus, with RAC audits underway, Medicaid cuts,

insurance companies issuing denials based on medical necessity, it's up to *you* to make sure that all provided services are reasonable and appropriate.



Special points of interest:

- *In summary, unnecessary diagnostic testing will affect:*
- *Reimbursement under Medicare and other payers*
- *Appropriate utilization of resources*

Questions? Contact Debbie Picou, RN 873-1833

Inside Story Headline

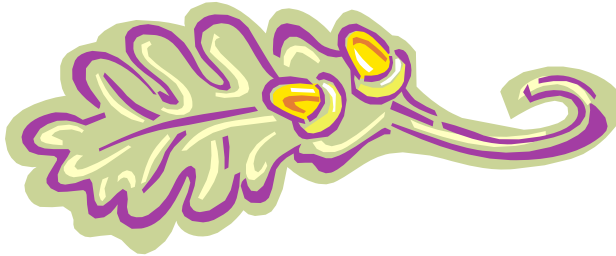
This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World



Caption describing picture or graphic.

publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally,

you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial.

You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the



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caption of the image near the image.

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Caption describing picture or graphic.

Organization

LEONARD J. CHABERT MEDICAL CENTER

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
E-mail: someone@example.com

Your business tag line here.

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

We're on the Web!
example.microsoft.com

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to

any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the

month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.