



- providing current information on health care industry issues and legislation

Special Election Result Changes Debate on Health Care Reform

On Tuesday, January 19th, State Senator Scott Brown (R) defeated Attorney General Martha Coakley (D) in Massachusetts' Special Election to determine who would fill the Senate seat once held by Senator Ted Kennedy.

With Brown's victory, Republicans will hold 41 seats in the United States Senate, allowing to party to successfully block any legislation in the chamber by using the filibuster. With Republicans in the Senate staying together and vowing to defeat The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in its current form, the only remaining option is to have the Senate Bill, in its current form, approved by the House of Representatives. This move would allow the bill to be passed into law without having to go back to the Senate for a second vote.

A second option currently being reviewed includes rewriting a majority of the entire bill in an attempt to gain the support of some members of the Republican Party. This option would most likely lead to a smaller, less comprehensive bill being passed into law.

3 Star Provider Of The Month

National PET Scan provides outpatient imaging services by staff trained to provide patients with quality patient care and professionalism. National PET Scan operates true PET/CT fusion centers, acquiring images with improved precision when compared with PET and CT fusion.

With locations throughout Florida, National PET Scan prides itself on offering cost effective skilled services while maintaining strict quality control standards throughout its many locations.

For more information on National PET Scan, and how they may be able to help meet your needs, please visit their website at: www.nationalpetscan.com

CONTENTS

- 1 Health Care Legislation Updates
- 1 Three Star Provider of the Month
- 2 Meaningful Use & Electronic Health Information
- 2 ARRA Changes to "Covered Entity"
- 3 Notable Savings
- 4 New 3 Star Providers
- 4 Contact Information

Rules for “Meaningful Use” & The Certification of Electronic Health Records Technology Release

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released proposed rules for “meaningful use” of electronic health records. The release of this rule helps implement provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that called for incentive payments to eligible professionals and hospitals that participate in Medicare and/or Medicaid programs, based on the adoption of and “meaningful use” of certified Electronic Health Record technology. The rules are designed to help outline how providers use certified Electronic Health Record technology to demonstrate meaningful use and obtain the incentive payments.

In conjunction with the release of the “meaningful use” rule, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology has released a final interim rule that outlines the initial set of standards for the certification of Electronic Health Record technology. This rule will become effective thirty (30) days after final publication.

When looked at in conjunction with one another, these rules will help implement the processes and procedures by which increased payments to eligible professionals and hospitals will be determined. Copies of these rules can be found at: www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFTData/2009-31217

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Changes to Definition of “Covered Entity”

On February 17, 2009, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law. This Act includes a number of privacy provisions that expand the original Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy provisions.

Previously under HIPAA, only covered entities were regulated and were responsible for passing along privacy and security obligations to their business associates. ARRA makes HIPAA privacy requirements applicable to business associates and subcontractors to business associates, allowing for direct enforcement of those requirements.

With these changes going into effect on February 17, 2010, **H.H.C. Group** is committed to ensuring that **H.H.C. Group** and our clients remain compliant with HIPAA, and all other privacy and security obligations. Please feel free to contact your sales person should you have any questions or concerns.

The examples below demonstrate recent savings achieved through our **Medical Review Program**. If a claim is unusually high and the provider will not negotiate or does not participate in any of our 230 **plus** contracted PPOs, the claim may be a good candidate for a **Line Item or Comprehensive Bill Review**. Please contact your sales representative or Linda Frances Loch, General Manager of Medical Review Programs, at 301-963-0762 ext. 163 or via e-mail at l_loch@hhcgroup.com for more information on these programs.

Medical Review Program Bill Review Examples

Line item bill review savings examples:

Case A: Acute Appendicitis

Case B: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Case C: Diaphragmatic Hernia

Bill amount	Recommended Denial		
Case A: \$17,138.45	\$3,482.56	or	20%
Case B: \$128,609.67	\$10,503.72	or	8%
Case C: \$75,410.58	\$3,533.18	or	5%

Negotiation and Repricing Savings Examples

The examples below demonstrate recent savings achieved through our Negotiation and Repricing Services. If you are currently using only one of our many services, please contact your sales representative or Joe Michaud, Executive Vice President of Sales at 301-963-0762 ext. 110, or via email at j_michaud@hhcgroup.com to find out how to access all of our health care cost containment services.

JANUARY 2010 EXAMPLES			
TYPE OF SERVICE	AMOUNT BILLED	% SAVED	SAVINGS
NEGOTIATION	\$32,536.00	85%	\$27,736.00
	\$34,770.00	31%	\$10,770.00
	\$17,528.17	25%	\$4,330.50
	\$258,206.38	20%	\$51,641.38
REPRICING	\$1,800.00	82%	\$1,069.14
	\$5,730.00	40%	\$2,292.00
	\$10,555.90	25%	\$2,638.00
	\$32,285.70	20%	\$6,457.14

Three Star Preferred Provider Program Additions

One of the strengths of **H.H.C. Group** lies in its relationships with providers. We are pleased to announce the following new program members.

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Boston H Corporation,
Framingham, MA 01701
Breathe Easy Pulmonary Services,
Dunedin, FL 34698
Carolina Anesthesia Group, PLLC,
Atlanta, GA 30368
Carti Oncology Solutions LLC,
Little Rock, AR 72215
Chester County PET Assoc.,
Paoli, PA 19301
Comprehensive Psychiatric Medicine,
Canton, MI 48187
Doylesown PET Associates,
Paoli, PA 19301
East Bay Endosurgery Inc.,
Oakland, CA 94609
Fairfax Convenient,
Fairfax, VA 22031
FBH of Oklahoma,
Oklahoma City, OK 73156

George L. Martin M.D.,
Wynnewood, PA 19096
Harbor Place,
Houston, TX 77272
Internal Medicine Associates,
Tullahoma, IN 37388
IPC of Texas,
Los Angeles, CA 90009
J.C. Health Inc.,
Miami, FL 33174
Limerick PET Assoc.,
Limerick PA 19468
Mary E. Burns DMD,
New Hope, PA 18938
Margaret Fergus, LLSW,
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
Medenvios Healthcare,
Miami, FL 33120

Mid-Missouri Ear, Nose, and Throat,
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Mount Sinai Medical Center,
Miami Beach, FL 33140
Nephrology & Hypertension,
Tupelo, MS 38801
Pediatric and Adolescent Health,
Johnson City, NY 13790
Richard R.M. Francis M.D.,
PA, Houston, TX 77210
Rosecrance On Harrison,
Rockford, IL 61108
Sheerji Anesthesia PC,
Bronx, NY 10465
Timothy Timmons,
Frankfort, IL 60423
United Anesthesia Inc.,
Parkersburg, WV 26104
University Radiotherapy Associates, PSC,
Louisville, KY 40201

CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional product/services information: visit
www.hhcgroup.com or 301-963-0762 ext. 110.

Repricing support/assistance: please contact
appeals@hhcgroup.com or 301-963-0762 ext. 212.

Medical Review Program support/information: please contact
mrp@hhcgroup.com or 301-963-0762 ext. 163.