

# STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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## Contents

- ☆ 5010 Claims and ICD-10 Diagnoses
- ☆ WritePad 25% Off
- ☆ Doctors And AMA Split Over ObamaCare
- ☆ Every 14 Minutes ... Someone Dies From Prescription Drugs
- ☆ What Happens in Texas Won't Stay in Texas



## Stellar Software

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## 5010 Claims and ICD-10 Diagnoses

There seems to be some confusion regarding the difference between 5010 electronic claims (which went into effect on January 1st) and ICD-10 diagnoses (which are currently mandated for use in October 2013).

**The 5010 electronic claim format** is just an update to the previous 4010 electronic claim format, with (for chiropractors) only a few relatively minor differences (mostly regarding clinic PO boxes and 9-digit clinic zipcodes). No changes are necessary to your data-entry procedures right now.

However, one major difference is that the new format specification allows for the eventual use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes, and is therefore a stepping-stone toward the implementation and use of ICD-10 codes in October 2013.

**At this time we are not aware of any changes being made to the paper claim form.** It is our opinion that the current form appears to be suitable for using ICD-10 codes, so there does not appear to be an immediate need for a new form. However, there's still a year and a half to go, so this may change.

**The ICD-10 diagnoses code set has been mandated for use beginning in October 2013,** as a replacement for the current ICD-9 code set. The new codes are much more detailed, with over 100,000 total codes (not that chiropractors will actually need that many on a regular basis).

Some things that required only a single ICD-9 code may now require multiple ICD-10 codes to

properly indicate the diagnosis, and some things that required the use of rather generic ICD-9 codes may have more specific ICD-10 codes available to more accurately specify the condition.

**Using the new ICD-10 codes will require a significant change on your part.** The doctor, and to a lesser extent the staff, will need to become familiarized with the new coding system so that they can issue appropriate diagnoses for billing once the mandate goes into effect.

We will be adding support for using ICD-10 codes to Stellar sometime later this year and expect to offer some kind of capability to match ICD-9 codes to the nearest applicable ICD-10 codes (and vice versa), although we're not yet sure exactly how this will be implemented.

**It is recommend you take steps to begin learning about the ICD-10 coding system this year.** We like the ChiroCode Institute's books (chirocode.com), and they have a new one titled "Complete & Easy ICD-10 Coding for Chiropractic" that would be a good way to get started.

## WritePad 25% Off

Last fall we announced the addition of a 2-way interface with the WritePad™ EHR documentation system. To start off the New Year, WritePad is offering Stellar customers a 25% discount off WritePad until February 28, 2012.

WritePad was the 1st chiropractic EHR to receive the highest COMPLETE Government Certification status. A WritePad

client was also the 1st chiropractor in the U.S. to receive the full stimulus amount of \$18,000 last year. WritePad has over 200 doctors that have attested successfully!

WritePad is a comprehensive EHR that allows doctors to do their SOAPS in seconds, reports in minutes. Over 17,000 users generate notes in WritePad daily. For more information you can call WritePad at 800-496-2001 or go to [www.writepad.com](http://www.writepad.com)

## **Doctors And AMA Split Over ObamaCare**

*From Forbes.com, by Sally Pipes*

For more than 160 years, the American Medical Association has served as the self-appointed chief lobbying group for doctors. But the AMA's lofty status has been under threat over the last several years — and is under attack today. In fact, the AMA now only counts about 17% of doctors as members.

According to a new survey, the majority of doctors do not believe that the AMA represents their views and interests. Much of that dissatisfaction stems from the organization's support for President Obama's contentious health care reform package.

That shouldn't be surprising. The AMA declares that its core mission is to "help doctors help patients." But ObamaCare undermines that pursuit by making life harder for physicians and driving down the quality of care available to patients.

The survey — conducted by physician recruitment firm Jackson & Coker — is a brutal indictment of both the AMA and ObamaCare. Just 13% of doctors agree with their trade association's support of the health reform law.

Some doctors are even dissociating themselves from the AMA. Of those who have terminated their membership, 47% cited the organization's continued backing of the health care law as the primary reason. Increasingly doctors are turning to associations like Docs4PatientCare and the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons that actually do represent their interests.

*Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/6fyrehn>*

## **Every 14 Minutes ... Someone Dies From Prescription Drugs**

*From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Donald M. Petersen Jr.*

When I was in the Navy during the Vietnam War, there was a sign posted just outside the base where I was stationed in California. The sign provided the running total of the number of U.S. military personnel who had died in Vietnam during the war versus the number of U.S. citizens who had died on U.S. highways during the same period of time. The numbers weren't even close. The casualties on our highways were much higher.

Now, a new threat has risen to outpace traffic accidents as one of the top killers of Americans: prescription drug poisoning. According to an investigative article that appeared recently in the Los Angeles Times, "drugs exceeded motor-vehicle accidents as a cause of death in 2009, killing at least 37,485 people nationwide." By comparison, the death toll for the Vietnam War is reported at 58,148 for the entire 10 years in which U.S. troops were deployed.

*Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/7qyhv2w>*

## **What Happens in Texas Won't Stay in Texas**

*From DynamicChiropractic.com, by James Edwards, DC*

In 1933, Texas Attorney General Dan Moody met with the Texas Medical Association (TMA) at a convention in Fort Worth and promised in an address that he would "run all the chiropractors in Texas into the Gulf of Mexico." Even though he was unsuccessful, it's déjà vu all over again because the TMA is now attempting to strip diagnosis from Texas doctors of chiropractic and in effect, accomplish what Moody could not: run us all into the Gulf of Mexico.

Without question, what happens in Texas on the issue of diagnosis will most certainly not stay in Texas. In fact, I am absolutely convinced that if political medicine is victorious in Texas — a state with over 4,000 DCs and the powerful Texas Chiropractic Association (TCA) — the AMA and state medical associations will be emboldened and attempt to repeat the process in every state, one by one.

So, be forewarned: If Texas doctors of chiropractic lose this battle with the political medicine machine, set your clock because it will only be a matter of time before they attack in your state; and they will do so armed with their Texas victory as "Exhibit A." For that reason, and no matter what state you live in, I urge you to join this fight. But before I tell you how to enlist, allow me to give you a brief background and update you on the latest legal developments.

*Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/6p94gj5>*