

STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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Stellar Software

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New Interface to WritePad EHR

We are happy to announce a new bi-directional interface to the WritePad EHR system from Addison Health Systems (AHS)! The bi-directional interface enables the export of patient information from Stellar to WritePad along with automatic updates as changes are made to the patient file in Stellar. It also allows CPT service codes and ICD-9 diagnosis codes documented in WritePad to be automatically picked up by Stellar and used to auto-populate the posting screen.

WritePad has full COMPLETE ONC-ATCB government certification (the highest status available), and according to AHS was the 1st chiropractic EHR to receive such certification. **AHS is currently offering Stellar users a 25% discount off the WritePad software until December 31, 2011.** This would allow you to:

1. Automatically connect patients from Stellar to WritePad as well as have continuous updates from Stellar as changes are made to the patient file.
2. Document patient care and

have the ICD-9 and CPT codes automatically populated back into Stellar for billing thus saving a lot of manual input.

3. Automatically connect doctors to patients at home via the Internet to allow patient intake screen capture as well as dr/patient messaging.
4. Create notes in 10-15 seconds, reports in minutes and be Medicare compliant!

Finally, because WritePad is a COMPLETE government certified EHR, AHS has been successfully teaching their client doctors how to become eligible for the Medicare Stimulus program. AHS has over 4,500 doctors using WritePad daily. Call them at 800-496-2001 or email sales@writepad.com to get more information.

Note that it's not too late to qualify for the 2011 stimulus, but time is short. A 90-day reporting period is required, making October 3rd, 2011 the deadline by which to be using a certified EHR in order to qualify for 2011. So you'll have to move quickly if you want to get in on it. Call AHS and they can give you more information.

2011-2012 **ONC-ATCB** COMPLETE EHR AMBULATORY

Government ONC-ATCB Certified Complete EHR Ambulatory

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Stellar Updates

Here are some of our recent enhancements and updates to Stellar. (Go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update to open our webpage with the complete list.)

Configuration, Patient Billing

Added option to restrict patient billing based on balance and balance age (used if you don't want to bill patients with small, recent balances).

Appointment Listing

Added 'Future Only' option to skip printing timeslots from earlier in the day.

WritePad Interface

Added bi-directional interface support for WritePad documentation system (www.writepad.com).

Transaction Summary

Can now limit report to a single provider.

Visit Sheets

Made a correction to ensure proper handling of 'new/unlisted' type appointments.

Headed for Another Medicare Showdown

CMS announces 29.4 percent physician fee cut for 2012.

From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Editorial Staff

Whether it's Congress vs. the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS vs. health care providers, or any other combination of the three, the latest showdown seems inevitable in the coming months regarding proposed Medicare fee cuts and how they are determined.

According to a recently released Congressional Budget Report, a 29.4 percent reduction in reimbursement will take effect Jan. 1, 2012 if Congress doesn't step in – as it has done every year without fail since 2003 – at the last minute to block the fee cuts.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/3rqnshy>

Appeals court declares 'individual mandate' unconstitutional

From DOTmed.com, by Brendon Nafziger, DOTmed News Associate Editor

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta struck down a crucial part of President Obama's health care reform on Friday, declaring the "individual mandate" unconstitutional, according

to reports.

The mandate, which many consider critical for the Affordable Care Act, requires everyone to have health insurance by 2014 or face fines.

In a 2-1 decision, the judges ruled that the mandate exceeded the powers granted to the Congress under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"This economic mandate represents a wholly novel and potentially unbounded assertion of congressional authority: the ability to compel Americans to purchase an expensive health insurance product they have elected not to buy, and to make them re-purchase that insurance product every month for their entire lives," the two judges said in their 300-page, majority opinion, according to Reuters.

Read the rest at:

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/16704>

FDA Conflict of Interest Laws

FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg pushing to eliminate conflict of interest laws, allow paid drug company shills to fill advisory positions

From NaturalNews.com, by Ethan A. Huff, staff writer

(NaturalNews) At a time when drug industry corruption is reaching a pinnacle of public exposure, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is actually proposing eliminating one of the few pseudo-effective measures in place that restricts the agency from becoming a full-blown Big Pharma "rubber stamp" consultant.

In a recent announcement, FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg stated that the agency may next year loosen certain conflict of interest restrictions that prevent scientists with financial ties to the drug industry from becoming members of FDA advisory panels.

There are 45 different FDA advisory committees that, according to the FDA's own website, are supposed to obtain "independent expert advice on scientific, technical, and policy matters." In other words, these panels are purportedly to be composed of objective, unbiased individuals that do not have financial or other ties to the very companies about which they are advising. Makes sense, right?

Well, in the eyes of Commissioner Hamburg, these common sense restrictions, which at least give the illusion that the FDA conducts honest regulatory work on behalf of the people, are unreasonable and must be eliminated.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/3rlzgsc>