Greetings Network Members,

News from CMS:
CMS recently published that the enforcement of Face-to-Face rules, set to take effect on July 1, 2013, has been delayed. In a note circulated on Capitol Hill and sent to Congressional Staff, Lauren Aronson, Director, Office of Legislation for CMS, communicated that there is a need for additional time for providers and suppliers to establish operational protocols necessary to comply with the rules. CMS will actively enforce the rules and expect full compliance beginning October 1, 2013.1

CMS has also announced a revision to the booklet published on Quality Standards. While Supplier Standards are generally well known, the Quality Standards can be more elusive. Please click here to download the revised version.2

The Business of Sleep:
As the cost of operating an HME company continues to escalate, a recent study was published that suggests HMEs that run a sleep program could potentially reduce costs and enhance patient outcomes. The study, titled “Impact of Group Education on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure,” was conducted by Christopher J. Lettieri, M.D., F.A.A.S.M., and Robert J. Walter, M.D., D.H.C.E. The study included 2,116 patients and concluded that a group educational program facilitated improved CPAP adherence. For more information on the study, please click here.3

Educational Webinar:
The National Respiratory Network’s July webinar will focus on a homecare treatment modality for COPD patients. There has been a lot of discussion over the issue of premature readmission to hospitals for patients of certain diagnoses. Beginning in 2014, hospitals will be financially penalized when discharged patients who have a diagnosis of COPD are prematurely readmitted (within 30 days).

The FDA has recently announced approval for ResMed’s VPAP COPD device. Join Beth Richey, RRT, ResMed, on July 18th at 2:00 pm CST as she shows how this device can help COPD patients get needed therapy and potentially reduce readmissions. Please click here to register.

Upcoming Webinar:
The National Respiratory Network will be hosting a webinar on August 15th to review the National Respiratory Network’s Traveling Oxygen Program. This is perfect timing as MED’s Oxygen Travel Guide is once again available, following a complete revision! To view the updated Oxygen Travel Guide, or to place an order, please click here. More information regarding this webinar is below.

Summer time is travel time!
Many people like to get away from home for a few days, and patients on oxygen are no exception. However, it can be time consuming and costly to the independent HME provider to assist patients who travel outside of their service area. Your staff often addresses issues such as:

- Finding another provider who will service the area the patient is visiting
- Negotiating what the cost/charges will be
- Determining the expected level of service for the patient
- Establishing details related to pick up & delivery

As a Member of the National Respiratory Network, you benefit by having a network of providers within reach to help with coordinating care for your patients.

Please have your Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs), customer service, billing, and sales teams join us for an overview of MED’s Traveling Oxygen Program. This webinar will be conducted as an August 15th Network training session at 11:00AM CST. The following will be discussed:

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July 2013

The goal of the National Respiratory Network Current Topics Update is to share timely information with our clients. The contents are selected to provide guidelines for approaching the resolution of problems, but are not intended to provide medical advice for individual problems. The latter should be obtained from your physician. News items summarized in National Respiratory Network Current Topics Update are taken from secondary sources believed to be reliable. However, National Respiratory Network Current Topics Update does not verify their accuracy.
• How the program works
• The expectation of Network Members for both sending and receiving patients
• Cost elements
• Updating your company’s Travel O2 profile for your primary and branch locations

We will also begin discussing how to potentially expand the program beyond travelers and to those patients relocating.

Medicare Reference Guide:
Due to the impending Face-to-Face rules, all orders for Medicare Reference Guides have been held, pending further instructions. In light of the 90 day delay, if you would like your order to be filled now, please call MED at 800-825-5633. However, please understand that the books will become outdated as more detailed instructions are made available.

As always, your monthly patient newsletter, The Pulmonary Press, is included and can be downloaded by clicking here. This month’s issue has some great information on the benefits of quitting smoking.

Reach out if I can be of assistance, for I am:

Here to serve,

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References:

1 "Hill Notification: Additional Time to Establish Protocols for Newly Required Face-to-Face Encounters for Durable Medical Equipment (DME)." 27 June 2013. E-mail.
