

Contents

About the Author vii

Chapter 1: Intro to home health billing 1

Overview of home health payments	1
Regulatory changes that impact billing.....	4
Review and update of recent regulatory changes.....	5

Chapter 2: Understand home health payment..... 15

Is your patient eligible for services?.....	16
How home health PDGM works	20
Funding for beneficiaries with Part A and/or Part B	21
Stages of the home health billing system	21
HCPCS codes.....	22
Annual home health payment changes	25

Chapter 3: Improve OASIS accuracy and outcomes..... 27

IMPACT Act.....	27
OASIS	28
OASIS and the impact on CMS surveys.....	30
How do I avoid OASIS-related billing errors?.....	30
OASIS and payment-related issues.....	32
Avoid OASIS errors that impact payment.....	34
What's required for home health eligibility.....	35
Training resources for OASIS	36

Chapter 4: Billing in the ICD-10 world 39

High-level view of ICD-10 code changes	39
Targeted reviews	40
How to minimize productivity losses	41
Use tools to self-evaluate.....	44
How to reduce payment delays	44
Keep up-to-date with FISS-DDE user manuals	45
Tools.....	46
Sample referral form for skilled pulmonology patients.....	46
Sample referral form for skilled orthopedic patients	47

Chapter 5: Master HHRGs, PDGM and HIPPS.....49

Intro to HHRGs and HIPPS.....	49
OASIS submission is a condition for payment.....	49
Validate HIPPS code on the claim.....	51
HHRGs and HIPPS.....	52
Effect of HHRG/HIPPS on Medicare payments	53
Five components to determine PDGM case mix	54
Maximize accuracy to ensure correct payment	66

Chapter 6: File NOAs and claims69

Monitor your MAC	69
Examine multiple Medicare manuals	69
Outliers in 2024 and beyond.....	72
Understand UB-04	74
What is the HETS?	76
Conditions to meet before NOA can be filed	77
UB-04 Overview	77
Electronic claim submission.....	79
Commonly rejected front-end edits.....	80
Pre-payment edits	80
Avoid the most common EDI claim edits.....	81
Medicare FFS home health required form CMS-1450 (UB-04) data element checklist.....	81
Checklist of form CMS-1450 (UB-04) data elements required only when applicable.....	86
HCPCS G codes for home care.....	87
Common revenue codes with related disciplines.....	87
Medicare “clean claim” pre-billing checklist.....	90
How to contact your MAC	91

Chapter 7: Make sense of claims adjustments93

Claims adjustments: Are they worth the trouble?	93
Reasons to file accurate claims.....	93
Types of adjustments.....	94
More details on adjustments.....	97
Payments to agencies that don’t submit quality data	98
Basic rule about adjustments.....	99

Chapter 8: Avoid common billing errors101

Pick up your PEPPER.....	101
ICD-10 and claim edits/rejections	103

More on the biller's role.....	104
Common billing errors	105
More tools offered by MACs	113
Terms to reflect status of claims.....	114
Actions to handle rejected, denied or RTP claims	115
Other common status and locations	115
More notes on RTP and rejected claims	115
Timely filing requirements.....	116
Overpayments.....	119
TOB codes	121
Use LCDs and NCDs to reduce payment denials.....	124
Billing issues related to ADRs and medical review.....	129
Other common medical review findings	129
Best practices for OASIS impact on billing.....	129
Top home health Medicare claim error reason codes	130

Chapter 9: Reduce face-to-face denials137

Face-to-face encounter documentation.....	137
Documentation suggestions when appealing denials	141
Tips to comply with specific MAC expectations	142
Homebound status verification	142

Chapter 10: Survive claims audits149

ADR overview.....	149
Prepare for audits	150
Common coding errors agencies experience.....	153
Take steps to remain in compliance	155
ADR avoidance, preparedness and response	156
Disclosure and self-reporting	156
How to handle, prepare for ADRs	158
Steps to manage audit letters.....	159
Establish compliance tracking systems.....	161
Stop recoupment	162
What happens following reconsideration by a QIC?	163
Appeals	163
Common Home health medical review denial reasons	167
More on medical review denial reasons.....	168
ADR resources	169
Pre-billing audit checklist	169
Tools.....	171

Chapter 11: Medicare Advantage175

Options under the Medicare benefit	176
Medicare plans overview	176
Impact of increased enrollment	177
MA plans must include HIPPS code	178
Managing payer source changes	178
Many MA claims are being reviewed	179
How Medicare Advantage affects traditional Medicare	180
Coordinated care plans	180
Other plans.....	182
Improvements under Part C.....	183
MA and non-skilled coverage	184
Managed Care and the insurance maze	184
Determination of the primary payer	188
Effect of election of MA organization, eligibility changes	190

Chapter 12: Patient-Driven Groupings Model.....191

PDGM overview.....	191
Model specifics.....	192
Filing a NOA in 2024.....	196
Increase efficiency of billing under PDGM	198
A recap of billing under PDGM.....	198