



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

433 River Street, Suite 303

Troy, New York 12180-2299

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 20, 2006

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to share information with hospitals that could impact hospital operations. Upon receipt of this letter it is important that hospital staff carefully review the information provided to determine which offices/departments within the hospital will be impacted and distribute the letter accordingly.

Maternity Information Brochure

The Department provides information that hospitals with maternity services need for the mandatory production and distribution of the Maternity Information Leaflet (PHL 2803(j)). That information has been available through the Department's Health Provider Network (HPN) since 2001. The values for the measures to be included in the Maternity Information Leaflet for calendar year 2004, the associated technical notes, and the leaflet template are now posted to the HPN site at <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/mib>. It should be noted that due to changes in birth data reporting, the values for three measures, Primary Cesarean Section, Repeat Cesarean Section and VBAC, are not available for 2004 for hospitals outside of New York City.

To produce the Leaflet, navigate to the measure set for your hospital and print it out. Download the Microsoft Word Leaflet template. Enter your hospital's values for the measures into the template. Enter "Not Available" (N/A) for the two Cesarean Section measures and the VBAC measure as identified above. Print the resulting document and reproduce for distribution by your hospital.

All hospitals have an HPN account. The hospital's HPN Coordinator can provide assistance in retrieving the posted information. Since all hospitals providing maternity care are required by law to distribute this information to every prospective maternity patient, it is important that hospitals access and utilize the updated information and template provided on the Department's web site.

For questions concerning the data please contact the Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics at bio-info@health.state.ny.us or (518) 474-3189.

Department of Health On-site Surveillance Visits

Questions have been raised by facilities regarding the Department's policy on announced vs. unannounced surveys. To ensure consistency throughout the State and to promote consistency between federal and state survey practices, facilities should be aware that all surveys, including complaint and incident reviews, will routinely occur on an unannounced basis.

Live Organ Donors – New Tax Deduction for Unreimbursed Expenses

Effective with the tax year beginning January 2007, patients who make a live organ or bone marrow donation may deduct certain unreimbursed expenses from their adjusted gross income for the purpose of computing their New York State income tax. The new law, found in Tax Law §612 (c)(38), allows a taxpayer to deduct up to ten thousand dollars for unreimbursed travel expenses, lodging expenses and lost wages related to the taxpayer's organ donation. For the purposes of this law, "organ" is defined as all or part of a liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung or bone marrow. The tax deduction can only be claimed once, and is not available to part-year residents or non-residents.

Hospitals with transplant programs should share this information with their transplant coordinator(s) to ensure that each eligible patient is aware of this tax benefit.

Prescription Writing Requirements for Post-Graduate Trainees

The DOH Office of Medicaid Management, in the October 2006, Medicaid Update, has affirmed the policy for prescriptions written by unlicensed post-graduate trainees. Prescriptions originating in the hospital for Medicaid patients to be filled at community pharmacies, must include the supervising physician's Medicaid provider identification number or his/her State license number. Post-graduate trainees who are licensed in New York State should enter his/her own license number on prescriptions written for Medicaid recipients. Post-graduate trainees should *not* use the facility's Medicaid provider identification number on any prescriptions written as this may result in the claim being denied. Specific questions regarding prescription writing requirements for Medicaid billing purposes may be directed to the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General at (518) 474-2239.

Should you have any questions regarding the material provided in this letter or need additional information, please contact this office at (518) 402-1003.

Sincerely



Martin J. Conroy
Director
Division of Primary & Acute Care Services