PQRI Updates in HARP

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Existing reports in HARP are able to provide information on CPT II quality-data codes added to tickets. The **Transaction Date Summary** can be customized to show the number of charges, tickets, and/or patients with the quality-data codes for a selected time period. The **Transaction Report Writer** can show the ticket numbers of all tickets with the relevant quality-data codes (and any modifiers) for a selected time period.

Activating PQRI editing

PQRI editing will be available in the HARP version 2.33 release, which is scheduled for 05/19/08. Manager and Partner clients who are interested in this feature should provide their Quadax Service Consultant with a list or spreadsheet of the PQRI measures that apply to their practice. Fee schedules may need to be updated with the CPT II quality-data codes, which have a charge amount of $0.00 (or $0.01 in some cases). Standalone clients can update their own systems for PQRI. Setup details will be in the release notes for HARP version 2.33.

Clients wishing to activate PQRI editing for the Charge Repository System should contact their Quadax Service Consultant. A custom edit can be developed in the CRS sweep program to prevent eligible charges from being released into HARP without the applicable quality-data code. ◊

NPPES Updates

On April 21 2008, several updates and enhancements were implemented in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). Some of these updates may impact healthcare providers' NPPES records. Healthcare providers should become familiar with these updates and review their NPPES records for accuracy. CMS has detailed information on the updates at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/NPPES-Enhancements.pdf ◊

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Q TIPS

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PQRI Updates in HARP

By Candace Wintering, TechComm Services Manager

Enhancements in Release 2.33 (scheduled implementation date 05/19/08) will give HARP the ability to warn users at the time of charge entry that a charge is eligible for a Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) measure. The timing is significant because a PQRI quality-data code must be on the same claim as the relevant CPT service code and must be included on the first claim for the service. These updates will help to ensure that PQRI codes are reported on claims to Medicare for providers participating in the program. Since CMS is offering a financial incentive based on the percentage of eligible charges for which a quality-data code is reported, the enhancements to HARP will make it easier to reach the goal and earn the bonus.

CMS has extensive documentation on the PQRI program and reporting measures for 2008 at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. Each measure has a defined combination of CPT codes, diagnosis codes, patient age, and gender that determine whether a service is eligible for a measure. If so, proof of quality care should be reported with a CPT II code on the same claim.

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Suppressing Legacy Provider Numbers

Candace Wintering, TechComm Services Manager, and Tom Klemens, Manager EDI Edits & Documentation Group

May 23, 2008 is the next significant date in the NPI implementation plan. As of this date, Medicare, along with many other payers, will begin to accept only NPIs as provider identifiers and to reject claims that include legacy numbers. Quadax has been monitoring payer policies on legacy provider numbers and updating our systems for this requirement.

HARP claims

Most providers have both NPIs and legacy provider numbers stored in HARP. When payers no longer accept legacy numbers, it will not be necessary to remove them from HARP. In fact, we prefer that HARP retain the legacy numbers just in case payers experience difficulties with NPI only and revert to dual numbers. Instead, we have developed strategies for suppressing legacy numbers on claims, with a different approach for electronic and hardcopy claims.

Electronic claims from HARP

Quadax is managing the suppression of legacy numbers on electronic claims from HARP on a payer-by-payer basis. Our claim editing process for electronic physician and institutional claims will prevent legacy numbers from being included once we verify that a payer no longer accepts them. The suppression edits are based on claim type. Since we realize that payers often change requirements with little notice, controlling suppression at the claim edit level allows us to quickly make updates for all clients.

Gateways, such as Emdeon and THIN, are instituting their own edits to suppress legacy provider numbers. Quadax will not create edits to suppress legacy numbers for claims sent through gateways.

Hardcopy claims from HARP

The suppression of legacy provider numbers on hardcopy claims is controlled by an insurance category parameter in HARP. To activate it, simply enter the date in the suppress

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Suppressing Legacy Provider Numbers

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legacy provider numbers field, and legacy numbers will not print on hardcopy claims after that date. The HARP Support staff have added the May 23rd date for Medicare insurance categories for all Manager and Partner clients; if legacy numbers should be suppressed for other payers, Manager and Partner clients should contact their application support service representatives and request an update to the parameters. Standalone clients should add this date themselves for Medicare and any other insurance categories that will no longer accept legacy numbers. Clients should monitor their hardcopy claim rejections after May 23, 2008 to determine if updates are necessary for other payers. See Insurance Category Parameters in the HARP Maintenance Manual for details on the legacy number suppression parameter.

Referral NPIs

May 23rd is also the date that NPIs will be required for referrals on claims to Medicare and many other payers. Be sure that all your referring providers have an NPI stored in HARP before that date.

Xpeditor electronic claims

Quadax is taking a slightly different approach to managing the implementation of NPI only for our Xpeditor clients. Instead of suppressing the legacy number from the outgoing 837 file, a NOTE edit ("WARNING - Legacy # Should be Blank - 05/23/08") has been created for both UB and 1500 claims to indicate that the legacy physician numbers should no longer be used. The edit will be implemented with the **May 6th** codetable update. Effective with the **May 20th** codetable update, the NOTE edit will be replaced by the "standard" Xpeditor edit "Legacy Provider Number Must be Blank" to ensure that legacy numbers are not present on certain claims on or after 05/23/08. However, *if a legacy number is provided, it will be validated.*

Like our HARP counterpart, these edits will be applied on a payer-by-payer basis. Currently, these edits will be applied to the following payers:

- All Medicares
- Aetna
- Blue Crosses: Alabama, Anthem, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas
- Medicaids: California, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas
- Medical Mutual of Ohio

Other payers will be added as their final NPI policies are published.

Also similar to HARP, Quadax EDI will not apply these edits to claims sent through gateways such as Emdeon and THIN.◊

PQRI Updates in HARP

(from page 1)

In HARP, the criteria for each measure are stored at the virtual level. Only measures applicable to practices in the virtual need to be set up. Since CMS may add or retire measures in the future, the effective dates for measures are also stored.

The setup at the client level in HARP determines whether PQRI warnings are activated. Charge editing for PQRI can apply to an entire diagnosis category, specific physicians, or physician/location combinations. When a charge is entered into HARP, the program reviews the following charge data to determine if it is eligible for PQRI reporting:

- CPT code
- Diagnosis category of billed insurance, which most likely will be limited to Medicare payers
- Physician
- Location
- Diagnosis code
- Patient’s sex
- Patient’s age
- Date of service
- Place of service

When an entered charge meets the criteria, a message will appear on the Charge screen with a list of PQRI measures for which it qualifies. The charge entry operator will have the opportunity to add the CPT II quality-data code to the ticket for PQRI reporting, ensuring that it is on the same claim as the eligible charge. A tracking code with the charge entry operator code will also be added to tickets when a PQRI warning appears, providing tracking records on whether operators are consistently adding CPT II codes for eligible charges.

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Common Sense Security Reminders

By Gene Calai, Vice President of Information Services

The HIPAA Security Rule has been in place now for several years. I thought it might be a good idea to provide you with a few reminders as to how you can help secure PHI. Remember, security is everyone's responsibility.

Logon ID / User name

You should not share logon names. Each user should have his or her own unique logon name.

Passwords

You should have a good password – one that is secure and cannot be cracked easily. Quadax applications have been enhanced to force you to use reasonably complex passwords that are tougher to crack.

Some common sense tips for secure passwords are:

- Include at least two numbers and two letters.
- Longer passwords are harder to crack. Use six or more characters.
- Don't use a name or word.
- Don't write your password down. If your password is written down, it is easier for others to find.
- Don't tell anyone your password.

Many people recommend that you create a nonsense sentence that you can remember and use the first letter of each word. Then add in a couple random numbers. The sentence "No, the capital of Wisconsin isn't Cheeseopolis" would be a good example.

While some of these strategies may be difficult, it is your responsibility to secure your password. The benefits of securing PHI outweigh any inconvenience it may cause.

E-mail

Do not e-mail PHI.

Handling electronic PHI

If you need to transmit electronic PHI, it must be done in an encrypted manner. All Quadax applications run securely at 128-bit encryption.

Screen savers

Most corporations force screen savers to be enabled. If yours does not, it should. This prevents others from seeing PHI on your screen when your computer is idle.

Locking and logging off systems

To keep your computer secure when you leave your desk for a few moments, just press the Control, Alt and Delete keys at the same time. Then select Lock Computer. This prevents anyone from accessing your computer. When you return to your computer, press the Control, Alt, and Delete keys again and enter your password to log back in. If you are using a terminal, log off when you leave your desk.

Security is not the job of just one person or one department. Everyone must do their part to make it work. Make sure you are doing your part every day! ◊

An Event to Remember: Templates

By Ben Frayser, EDI Client Support Center Supervisor

I originally wrote the article *Creating an Event to Remember* for the August 2006 edition of *Q Tips*. Given the importance of support events, it’s not surprising that since then I’ve written two more articles on the topic. This time I’m very excited to announce the release of a new tool for EDI clients to use when creating Help Desk events through the ASP Portal. After months of discussion, programming, setup, and editing, client based Help Desk Templates are a reality!

Help Desk Templates are a new tool designed to standardize the collection and distribution of information necessary to resolve an event. Depending on the nature of the event, we may need a wide variety of detailed information in order to resolve the issue. Using templates will make it easier for you to supply us with all the details we need. By providing all of the necessary information up front, you can reduce or eliminate delays caused by missing data or the need for additional background research. A completed template will contain all of the information needed so that the proper team can review and resolve your event faster than ever.

Once the template tool is released for client use, which is pending a couple more weeks of testing and feedback, I will provide detailed instructions on how to use the templates.

Help Desk Templates are a big change, but a good one. We’ve been using the templates internally for several months now, and the support teams within Quadax EDI have been pleased with the results. We think you will be too! ◊