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**Dedicated to helping
physicians optimize
health care outcomes
and patient satisfaction**

Coming Soon

2005-2006 JPA Physicians Directory

JPA's 2005-2006 Physicians Directory will soon be distributed to all JPA practices. It serves as an easy referral tool and is categorized both alphabetically by physicians last name, as well as by specialty. Directions for keeping your information current is included in the booklet. The directory will also be posted on the JPA website (www.JPAdocs.com) when the site is back and operational. If you need additional copies please contact Cheryl at 817-2140.

2005-2006 JPA Preferred Vendor Directory

JPA's 2005-2006 Preferred Vendor Directory is currently being distributed. It highlights each of the JPA preferred vendors. While you are not required to use these vendors, we encourage you to work with them whenever possible and take advantage of the excellent pricing arrangements we've secured. JPA receives a financial incentive when utilization thresholds are met with some vendors, while other vendors have donated money for JPA educational seminars. The directory will also be posted on the JPA website (www.JPAdocs.com) when the site is back and operational. If you would like additional copies please contact Cheryl at 817-2140.

Welcome CP Federal Credit Union - JPA's Newest Preferred Vendor



JPA is pleased to announce the addition of CP Federal Credit Union to our list of preferred vendors. CP Federal Credit Union has been providing financial services to its members for over 50 years. All employees of JPA practices and their family are eligible to become members and take advantage of competitive rates and a wide range of services.

Checking & Savings
Consumer Loans
Mortgages & Home Equity
Online Account Access

Financial Education
Direct Deposit
VISA
No Surcharge ATMs

With six locations in Jackson, Brooklyn and Parma there is a CP Federal Credit Union near you. When you join, be sure to tell them that you or your family member is a JPA employee! To find the nearest location to you and learn about the many other CP Federal Credit Union advantages go to www.cpfederal.com or call Beth at (517) 784-7101 ext. 6214.



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The JPA Examiner

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Circulate to:

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Sign Up Now For Your National Provider Identifier (NPI)

You can now obtain your unique National Provider Identifier (NPI) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. As you may know, acceptance and use of the NPI will be mandated for HIPAA standard electronic health care transactions by May 23, 2007. An NPI is required even if you use a third party to prepare or submit transactions.

Ultimately, this single identifier will replace the numerous provider identifiers you currently use with various health plans. The NPI will be required from any provider that conducts electronic transactions for which a standard is adopted (i.e., standard submissions, verification, claims status

inquiries and responses, referrals and remittance advices.

The goal of the NPI is to improve electronic data interchange between providers and health plans to reduce the administrative burden on health care providers. The NPI should improve:

- Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- Other federal and private health programs; and
- Effectiveness and efficiency of the health care industry.

You can apply for your NPI as follows:

- Go to www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov and download paper application with instructions from the website.

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Help for Patients with Medicare's New Prescription Drug Program



Medicare's new Prescription Drug Program which replaces Medicaid's pharmacy benefit goes into effect January 1, 2006. This program is referred to as Medicare Part D. The pharmacy benefit for the disabled, low-income adults over 65 years old, and EPIC (Elder Prescription Insurance Coverage) participants will be discontinued unless they apply for the new Medicare pharmacy benefits.

If you do not feel prepared to answer their questions, you can refer patients to Michigan's Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP). Trained counselors will be available to help people choose and enroll in a prescription drug program that best meets their needs. MMAP counselors will also help people enroll in a Medicare Drug Coverage plan.

Contact Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

Phone: (800) 803-7174

Online: www.mymmap.org

Your Patients' Local Senior Citizen Center(s)

Apply online: www.socialsecurity.gov.

Since application forms were mailed in May and August and drug plans are expected to be announced in October you may receive inquiries from patients seeking your advice.

Remind your eligible patients of the December 31, 2005 deadline. **By doing nothing, this vulnerable population will experience an interruption in their pharmacy benefit coverage.**

Year 2005-06 JPA Board Members

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Dr. Lynn VanWagnen
Vice President:
Dr. Brian Adamczyk
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BCN News

Verify Your New BCBSM PIN # to Avoid Claims Rejection *Deadline October 1, 2005*

Blue Care Network is now accepting the 10-digit Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) provider identification number or the five-digit facility code, both referred to as PIN numbers. When applicable, the BCBSM license numbers can also be used for BCN claims. This is a transition step toward your unique National Provider Identifier (NPI). This number will convert to your NPI in 2007.

The PIN change is based on transaction date – not date of service. When you make the change, submit all BCN claims  from that day forward using the appropriate BCBSM PIN number and BSBSM license number (when applicable), regardless of date of service or whether you are submitting an adjustment on previous claims.

PIN # changes MUST be made by October 1, 2005 or your BCN claims will be rejected.

You can verify your 10-digit PIN by calling BCBSM at 1-800-822-2761. If you have not billed BCBSM in the past, you should have received a letter with your new BCBSM PIN for BCN claims submission. If you have not received this letter or have other questions, please contact your BCN Regional Representative, Ted Drozd at (517) 322-8114.

Blue Care Network to Offer New Medicare Product

Blue Care Network staff will be providing training sessions during the fourth quarter of 2005 to orient JPA staff to their new Medicare product called BCN Advantage. BCN Advantage (Medicare Part C and D) will be marketed to Medicare-eligible individuals. The program will be available 1/1/06 in an 18-county area. Further details of the training sessions will be provided in the near future.

Prilosec 40mg Removed from BCN Formulary

BCN is removing Prilosec 40mg from its formulary as of October 1, 2005. Prilosec OTC™ and Prevacid® are the recommended clinically sound, cost-effective drug therapy alternatives. As an incentive, BCN is waiving the co-payment for Prilosec OTC™ through December 31, 2005. If you have questions contact Ted Drozd at (517) 322-8114.

HEDIS® Opportunity: Improve Your Incentive Performance



HEDIS (Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set) is the performance measure used by more than 90% of the nation's managed care organizations. By adhering to the HEDIS measurements as a BCN member you also increase your incentive performance money.

You can still improve the HEDIS 2005 medical record audits for the following measures:

- Controlling diabetic care – nephrology and retinal eye exams.
- Controlling high blood pressure.
- Breast and cervical cancer screening.
- Childhood immunizations (DTP, HiB given at the appropriate ages).
- Adolescent immunizations and well visits.
- Cholesterol management after an acute cardiovascular event (LDL-C drawn 60-365 days after the event).

If you have questions please contact BCN Quality Management at (248) 455-3471.

Procedure Code 86580 Now Payable for BCN

Effective January 1, 2005, procedure code 86580 (tests tuberculosis, intradermal) is billable to BCN when performed in a physician's office. If you have experienced denied claims for this procedure code for BCN members, for dates of services on or after January 1, 2005, please resubmit them using your usual resubmission process.

Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce that three JPA physicians scored 100% on the 2004 Patient Satisfaction category of the Consumer Assessment Health Plans Study (CAHPS) for Blue Care Network. What better honor — than to be recognized by your patients! Congratulations,

Dr. Bruce Bigelow
Dr. Michael Foust
Dr. Thomas Wilson



National Provider Identifier

Continued from page 1)

- Call the NPI Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203.
- Electronic submission will be available later in fall 2005.

Guidance with the application process, including an instructional tool providing an overview of the NPI and its application process, is on the CMS website at: www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/regulations/identifiers/default.asp.

When you do receive your NPI, BCBSM and BCN request that you do not report it on claims. Continue to submit claims using your BCBSM or BCN identifier until notified otherwise. Preferred Choices is also not accepting the NPI yet. Both organizations expect to be NPI ready by the end of 2006.

EMR/PM Update

We're pleased to announce that the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Practice Management (PM) training is going well. The groups are currently transitioning the software to a working practice management product. Practice Management software implementation is nearly complete with two-thirds of the groups "live" on the system. Timetables are being established for EMR with the conversion planned for later this fall.

JPA expects to offer an informational session later this year for those practices that have not yet considered transitioning to the NextGen PM and EMR software.

If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Meschke at (517) 817-2140.

JPA Website Experiencing Technical Difficulties

The JPA website (www.JPAdocs.com) is temporarily down due to technical problems with the host. We are in the process of switching host providers and expect the site to be up by the end of the month. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Hurricane Katrina:

Privacy & Disclosure in Emergency Situations

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has put out a bulletin for anyone who serves people displaced or in need of healthcare as a result of a severe disaster such as Hurricane Katrina. The bulletin details how the HIPAA Privacy Rule allows for shared information during disaster relief efforts. To receive a copy of the bulletin go to www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa.

Preferred Choices News

PPO Provides Access 24/7

Preferred Choices PPO providers can access the Internet Self-Services (ISS) System 24/7 at www.preferredchoices.com. At the touch of a key, providers have instantaneous access to:

- Provider searches yielding provider name, office locations with maps, phone numbers, and provider ID numbers;
- Provider access to update practice information such as office address, phone numbers, office hours, and;
- The member name, claim number, member ID number, dates of service, and TPA name and phone number. The TPA will provide benefit information, claims payment status, eligibility information and pre-certification information.

To request access contact Brenda Christner at Preferred Choices at (616) 643-3629 or christbl@trinity-health.org.



PPO Sign-Up

Just over a year ago JPA negotiated a contract with Preferred Choices PPO. If you have not signed up — now is the time. Managed by Care Choices, the Preferred Choices program is a PPO network lease product and is owned by Trinity Health, the fourth largest Catholic healthcare system in the United States.

The Preferred Choices PPO network has more than 9,700 physicians and 70 hospitals statewide, 8 TPAs and 7 insurance companies and 500 members in the Jackson County area.



The JPA negotiated benefits include:

- The highest available PPO fee schedule in the area;
- Faster claims turnaround and quicker payments;
- Hassle free administration — the JPA administrative team serves as your interface between Preferred Choices and your practice; and
- Access to the fastest growing segment of the employer self-insured business.

If you would like to sign up or have further questions about the contract or operational issues please contact Cheryl at 817-2140 or by email at cherylm@JPAdocs.com.