

## CAPSULE

### ICD9/HCPCS Coding Changes

Effective 10/01/09, there are 375 new ICD9 diagnostic codes, 17 new ICD9 procedure codes, 4 new HCPCS codes and 63 deleted ICD9 codes. The changes are due to the addition of a fourth/fifth digit.



### Modifier Reimbursement Notification

Effective 01/01/10, HealthLink will implement several modifications to the modifier allowances that affect reimbursement. These modifications will help improve efficiency of administration for HealthLink and HealthLink contracted providers. A listing of the modifiers, including the code number, description and 01/01/10 reimbursement methodology is available on the HealthLink website at [www.healthlink.com](http://www.healthlink.com), and HealthLink's secured website, *ProviderInfoSource*, for participating physicians and health care professionals.



### State of Illinois Behavioral Health Benefits

Effective 10/01/09, the State of Illinois Behavioral Health benefits have changed. Please refer to page 2 for more information.

# IN-TOUCH

PHYSICIAN UPDATE

PREPARED BY HEALTHLINK FOR PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS 4th QTR 2009

## Exciting Changes Underway at HealthLink!

### HEALTHLINK HEADQUARTERS MOVES TO DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS

As of November 9, 2009, HealthLink headquarters will be located in downtown St. Louis.

P.O. Box numbers, email addresses and toll-free numbers will remain the same. Direct phone and fax numbers will change *prefix only*. For example, the phone/fax number of 314-989-1234 will become 314-**925**-1234.

The office relocation will take place over the long weekend between noon Friday, 11/06 and 5:00 a.m. Monday, 11/09. Although we anticipate minimal disruption of normal business operations, *ProviderInfoSource*, the Utilization Management Query and all electronic forms will be inaccessible during this time. Please make a note of our new physical address:



**Our New Address**  
HealthLink, Inc.  
1831 Chestnut Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103

### HEALTHLINK WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT, DENNIS MATHEIS



Dennis Matheis

HealthLink is pleased to introduce new president, Dennis Matheis.

Mr. Matheis has been president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri (HealthLink's sister company) since

November 2006. He joined the WellPoint family of companies in May 2004.

Prior to 2004, Mr. Matheis worked on the provider side as a chief executive at Advocate Health Partners in Chicago. Before that, he served as president and general manager of Cigna HealthCare of Illinois, president of Humana Health Plans of Kansas and Missouri, and president of Health Partners of the Midwest.

Mr. Matheis is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He and his wife have three grown children.

### PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

#### David C. Pratt Cancer Center at St. John's Mercy Medical Center



David C. Pratt Cancer Center

Accredited with commendation by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons, the David C. Pratt Cancer Center brings new energy and hope to people with cancer. The Center's health care professionals, use of technology and integrative approach to care work together in this state of the art facility designed specifically for cancer patients and their families.

The Cancer Center provides technologically advanced equipment for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Medical oncologists use a multi-disciplinary team approach that offers many life-saving advantages for patients. Teams of subspecialists meet weekly to review patient cases and formulate individualized treatment plans. Subspecialty conferences are conducted on

head and neck, breast, thoracic, urologic, general, GI and surgical oncology.

The David C. Pratt Cancer Center is proud of the strong community of support that surrounds its patients and their families.

For more information:  
314-251-6400 or 1-877-569-6400  
[www.davidcprattcancercenter.org](http://www.davidcprattcancercenter.org)

## State of Illinois: October 1, 2009 Change to Behavioral Health Benefits

Effective October 1, 2009, the State of Illinois CMS plan administrator has implemented the following change to the Behavioral Health benefits:

**Pre-certification is required for both inpatient and outpatient services (including office visits). For pre-certification for inpatient and outpatient services, please call 1-877-284-0102, option 3.** (Prior to the change, pre-certification authorization was required for inpatient services only.)

Please direct your questions about the State of Illinois Behavioral Health Benefits – and other benefits included in the State of Illinois CMS health plan – to HealthLink Customer Service at 1-800-624-2356.

Utilization Review Program	
HealthLink must be notified prior to any outpatient surgery, diagnostic and ancillary services and also prior to any elective hospital admission. Emergency admissions must be certified on the next business day. Please have admitting physician or member call HealthLink, Inc. at 1-877-284-0102 (toll free Number).	
Caution: Failure to obtain preadmission/admission certification may result in a reduction of benefits.	
For Mental Health/Substance Abuse Review, call HealthLink at 1-877-284-0102	
To verify eligibility, benefits or service status contact HealthLink at 1-800-624-2356; For the hearing impaired: 314-569-9260.	Please Inform us via HealthLink.com Call HealthLink MedCall 24-hour Nurse Hotline at 1-800-403-9142
Send Medical Claims only to HealthLink	
MAIL CLAIMS TO: Healthlink Open Access P. O. Box 411580 St. Louis, MO 63111-1580	Send Electronic Claims to: EDI Vendor #0475 EDI Clearinghouse – Web MD

## H1N1 Vaccine Information from the CDC and the Medicare Learning Network

- ▶ On June 11, 2009 the World Health Organization declared H1N1 a global pandemic based on the spread of the disease and not the severity. The first confirmed case was diagnosed in the United States on April 15, 2009.
- ▶ It is in the area. Patients have been diagnosed with and have died from the H1N1 virus in the bi-state area of MO and IL, and 26 states are reporting widespread activity.
- ▶ The H1N1 vaccine was approved by the FDA on October 1, 2009. This vaccine will be in addition to the usual seasonal flu vaccine. It will also be available at no cost to providers. Providers may bill for the vaccine's administration cost, but should not submit any charges for the vaccine itself. *Please refer to “Coding Corner” for specifics.*
- ▶ It is expected that the first batch of the vaccine will be an intranasal spray containing live attenuated virus. Children younger than 2 years, pregnant women and people with underlying conditions should not receive vaccines with the live attenuated virus even though these groups are also recognized as being at high risk.
- ▶ Informational resources are available for downloading free of charge at [cdc.gov/flu/flyers.htm](http://cdc.gov/flu/flyers.htm)

For more information, Medicare Learning Network MLN Matters, #SE0920, which explains Medicare coverage and reimbursement rules for the H1N1 vaccine.

## Diabetes Drug Fights Breast Cancer

The following is an excerpt from The WebMD Breast Cancer Health Center, “Diabetes Drug Fights Breast Cancer.”

Sept. 14, 2009 – The next breakthrough in breast cancer treatment may be a diabetes drug already on the shelves of nearly every pharmacy.

The drug is metformin, available generically and under brand names such as Glucophage and Fortamet. A growing body of evidence suggests that diabetes patients taking metformin are less likely to get cancer, and have better outcomes if they do get cancer, than those not taking the drug.

Harvard researcher Kevin Struhl, PhD and colleagues found that metformin can kill breast cancer stem cells, thought to be the cells responsible for breast cancer spread and occurrence.

### October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

In mice carrying human breast cancers, metformin made standard chemotherapy vastly

more effective. Mice treated with the combination remain cancer-free for four months, unlike mice treated with either drug alone.

What’s so special about yet another drug that kills cancer cells in mice? For one thing, the kind of cancer cells metformin targets are cancer stem cells, which are resistant to standard chemotherapy.

Struhl says cancer stem cells are “far more nasty” than regular cancer cells.

“The bulk of the cells in a tumor are cancer cells which grow but are killed by chemotherapy,” Struhl says, “But there is also a small population of cancer stem cells, which are better able to form tumors on their own and more resistant to chemotherapy than cancer cells.”

Different researchers have recently described new compounds that selectively kill cancer stem cells. Whether these compounds might one day become safe and effective cancer drugs remains to be seen.

To view this article in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.webmd.com/breast-cancer/news/20090914/diabetes-drug-fights-breast-cancer>

## HealthLink Walks to Cure Juvenile Diabetes

HealthLink's heritage of caring and its commitment to social responsibility are important parts of the company's corporate culture. Time and again, HealthLink associates have demonstrated generosity and service in their support of the St. Louis metro community.

For the past three years, HealthLink associates, family and friends have raised funds and joined in the walk through St. Louis' Forest Park on behalf of JDRF. This year, HealthLink set a new record for participation and fundraising – more than 165 walkers and more than \$7,100.00 in donations.

In addition to the walk and online fundraising, HealthLink associates participated in on-site sponsorship activities, including:

- ▶ HealthLink designed t-shirts for walkers
- ▶ JDRF Shoe Wall of Fame
- ▶ JDRF bracelets and buttons
- ▶ Mystery Raffle
- ▶ Penny Wars

At the walk, HealthLink operated a booth with information and giveaways such as healthy coloring books, nutrition guides and the usual big crowd-pleaser – HealthLink frisbees.



*When it comes to community spirit, HealthLink associates don't just "talk the talk." They also "walk the walk."*

### Changes in the Go Green Initiative

HealthLink has postponed the Go Green initiative that was scheduled for January 1, 2010 to make sure that you have had time to register for our secured website, *ProviderInfoSource*.

ProviderInfoSource is an online suite of administrative tools that enables your practice to obtain access to all of HealthLink's newsletters, manuals and other communications.

You can access ProviderInfoSource via a link on the "Physician/Hospital" home page of [www.healthlink.com](http://www.healthlink.com), or go to [www.providerinfosource.com](http://www.providerinfosource.com).

#### So Let Us Hear From You!

Fill out the Go Green tear-off card that is attached to this newsletter and send it back to HealthLink so we can serve you better.

### Stay Tuned: 2010 Pre-Cert Requirements

2010 is right around the corner and may bring changes to HealthLink enrollees' precertification requirements.

Utilization Management components may vary from health plan to health plan. Please refer to the enrollee ID card for specific instructions. Failure to pre-certify elective services may result in participating provider financial penalties from the benefits administrator and in accordance with the health benefit program.

Visit our website at [www.healthlink.com](http://www.healthlink.com). Utilization Management Tools are located on the Provider page under "Utilization Management."

#### CODING CORNER

##### Q. What is the correct code for reporting H1N1 vaccine?

A. There are both existing CPT codes and new CPT and HCPCS codes that can be used to report the H1N1 vaccine and administration. The existing CPT code 90663, influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, may be used for the vaccine itself along with an existing administration code 90465-90474 depending on the route of administration and the age of the patient. Code 90470, H1N1 immunization administration (intramuscular, intranasal) is a new CPT code effective 9/28/09. New HCPCS codes effective 9/1/09 may also be used. HCPCS code G9142, Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration may be used for the vaccine itself and G9141, Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (including the physician counseling the patient/family, may be used for the administration.

Source: AMA's CPT Assistant, August 09, page 9

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to see addressed in this section, please notify your Network Consultant.

*Any information included in this newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for medical care or advice provided by a physician. Any reference in the material to other organizations or companies, including Internet sites, is not an endorsement or warranty of the services, information or products provided by those organizations or companies. HealthLink does not assume responsibility for any circumstance arising out of the use, misuse, interpretation or application of any of the information in this newsletter.*

**REMINDER**

**DO WE HAVE YOUR  
CURRENT INFORMATION?**

*Have you relocated? Going into solo practice? Do you have a new Tax ID number?*

Please be sure to inform us of these types of changes as soon as possible. You can contact your Network Consultant or visit HealthLink’s website, [www.healthlink.com](http://www.healthlink.com) to update your information. From the main menu, go to the “Providers” home page and in the “Forms and Manuals” section, click on the “Physician Address/Name/TIN/NPI Change Form.” If you are moving to a new practice, be sure to include both your former practice and new practice TINs.

Please note that failure to notify HealthLink of these changes could result in claim processing delays as the payor verifies current information.

*HealthLink®, Inc., is an Illinois corporation. HealthLink, Inc. is an organizer of independently contracted provider networks, which it makes available by contract to a variety of payors of health benefits, including insurers, third party administrators or employers. HealthLink has no control or right of control over the professional, medical judgment of contracted providers, and is not liable for any acts or failures to act, by contracted providers. HealthLink, Inc. is not an insurance company and has no liability for benefits under benefit plans offered or administered by payors. HealthLink® is a registered trademark of HealthLink, Inc. and a separately incorporated and capitalized subsidiary of WellPoint, Inc.*

**Welcome to IN-TOUCH!**

IN-TOUCH is created by HealthLink specifically for participating physicians, hospitals and other health care professionals. Our goal in creating IN-TOUCH is to bring HealthLink and participating physicians closer together by providing information that will be helpful to you and your staff. We welcome your ongoing feedback.

**IN-TOUCH ROUTE LIST**

*Route among your staff...*

- ▶ Dr. \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Dr. \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Office Manager
- ▶ Claims Administrator
- ▶ Marketing Director

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*Newsletter Information Sources: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1/flu);  
Medicare Learning Network MLN Matters #SE0920;[www.webmd.com/breast-cancer/news/20090914/diabetes-drug-fights-breast-cancer](http://www.webmd.com/breast-cancer/news/20090914/diabetes-drug-fights-breast-cancer)*

**IN-TOUCH**

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### NOTICE

HealthLink has postponed our January 1, 2010 Go Green launch. We would like to hear how you would like to receive newsletters, manuals and other communications from HealthLink.

### Internet Access

To access documents such as our newsletters, manuals and secure information about claims status, member eligibility and payor information, please log on to:  
[www.providerinfosource.com](http://www.providerinfosource.com)

**If you do not have Internet access, please supply the following information and mail this form to HealthLink:**

Office Name/Provider Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Tax ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

NPI Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax to: **Attention - Network Consultants, 314-925-6627**

Going Green Helps Save the Earth. Thanks for Your Help in This Initiative!



**Celebrating 25 Years of Business**  
Thank you, HealthLink Providers!