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Health Law Partners Warn of Increased Medicare Auditing Activity "What All Health Care Providers and Suppliers Need To Know About the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program"

By: Business Wire | 10 Jul 2009 | 09:43 AM ET

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SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Jul 10, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- --RAC Denials and Overpayment Demands Can Be Appealed The Health Law Partners, P.C. (www.thehlp.com), today released a HealthCare Notification entitled: What All Health Care Providers and Suppliers Need To Know About the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program.

Written by Abby Pendleton, Esq. and Jessica L.Gustafson, Esq., founding partners of The HLP, this article outlines the issues all Medicare providers and suppliers should know about the RAC program.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program has been made permanent and is expanding nationwide. In the very near future, the substantive RAC auditing activity is planned to begin in Michigan, New York, California and Florida, among other states.

Pendleton states, "It is without question that physician practices must begin to prepare now for what promises to be an unprecedented time in terms of Medicare, Medicaid and other payor audit scrutiny." Pendleton and Gustafson suggest that the Medicare RAC program will definitely change the landscape of the health care environment prompting providers to pay careful attention to medical documentation and coding practices. The authors encourage all physicians to take measures to enhance current documentation practices keeping in mind that records could be selected for audit at some point in the future.

However, all is not gloom and doom. According to Gustafson, "Medicare providers and suppliers must be aware that RAC denials and overpayment demands can be successfully appealed through the established Medicare appeals process." Pendleton continues, "Providers should definitely take advantage of the appeals process. We have seen many providers write-off claims that are winnable. For purposes of defending denied claims, having perfect documentation is certainly not the key to prevailing." ABOUT THE HEALTH LAW PARTNERS, PC The Health Law Partners, P.C. ("HLP"), (www.thehlp.com), was founded by a team of attorneys, each of whom practices exclusively in the area of national health care law, for the purpose of providing solutions to health care providers' and organizations' legal, business and reimbursement challenges. The Health Law Partners is located in Southfield, MI.

Abby Pendleton and Jessica Gustafson lead the Medicare, RAC and other Payor Appeals Department at The HLP. For more information please contact: Abby Pendleton and Jessica Gustafson at 248.996.8510 or by email: APendleton@thehlp.com ; JGustafson@thehlp.com <http://www.thehealthlawpartners.com/lawyer-attorney-1445064.html> (Imbedded video: RACs How to Prepare for the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Program) SOURCE: Health Law Partners, P.C.

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