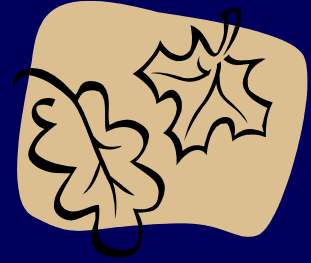




Billing Buddies Fall News



FALL ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2009

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Electronic Age Really Takes Hold

The term has been used for so long, we really don't pay attention to it. It's so "cliché". But, as the years have passed, we have either willingly gone through the transition of adopting the electronic age, or we have been pulled along. Those who have adopted it rarely if ever revert back to their old ways. Now, the government has sweetened the deal with the Stimulus Package. Let's review the electronic options offered by Billing Buddies. (See December Special on Page 4 and call us.)

Medisoft—Practice Management Software—Records and tracks patient receivables.

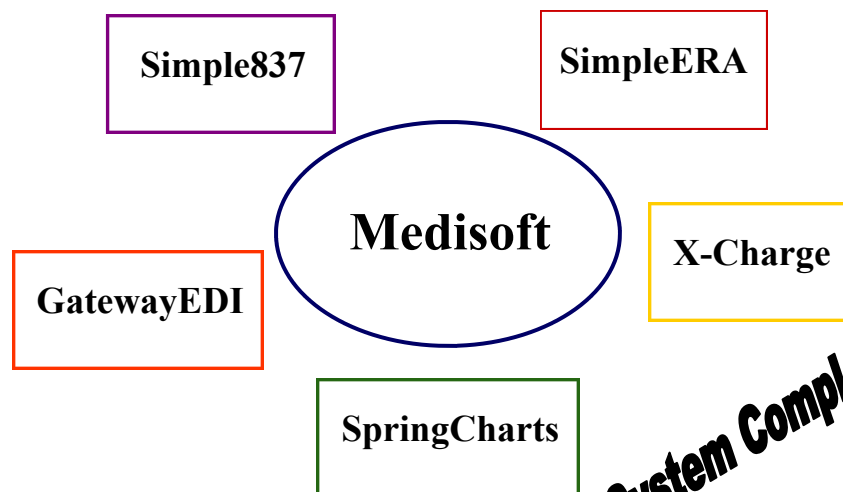
Simple 837—Converts claims from Medisoft to the true ANSI 837 format allowing submission of 8 diagnoses codes on all electronic claims.

Simple ERA—Posts electronic remittance advices (ERA) automatically into Medisoft including payments, adjustments, rejects and deductibles.

GatewayEDI— Our chosen clearinghouse; offering eligibility, claims, claim status, and ERA. (They have an awesome website too!)

X-Charge—Processes credit card payments and posts the directly into Medisoft.

Spring Charts—Electronic Health Records—Records and tracks electronic patient records. Syncs directly with Medisoft's database by coordinating patient information, scheduling and charging thereby insuring the claim form matches the record.



System Complete!

ICD / CPT Updates

Now is the time of year that the ICD-9 and CPT codes get updated.

The updates for the ICD-9 codes became effective 10/1/09. If you search the web for “2009 ICD-9 Updates”, you will get many free sites. Keep the quotes around the words when you do the search and you will get specifically what you want. Without the quotes, you will receive millions of hits that do not apply. Remember, the ICD-9 codes stand for

International Classification of Diseases 9th Edition; and as the name states, the codes are used internationally.

The ICD-10 code will be officially implemented on October 1, 2013. Currently, they are used in almost every country in the world except the United States. This is going to be a huge change for everyone in the healthcare industry; providers, insurance companies and clearinghouses to name a few. Do a search on this topic

as well. Start getting educated on the charges to come.

Finally, the CPT codes are published and copyrighted by the AMA. They are updated on the 1st of each year.

If you aren't currently experiencing the many benefits of electronic claims, this is one of them. By submitting claims electronically, you will receive immediate notification of invalid codes and will therefore have your claims paid much faster. Call us.

If you do not hope, you will not find what is behind your hopes.

- St. Clement of Alexandra

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MN Requires ERA

The State of Minnesota will require all healthcare providers to receive their remittance advices from insurance companies electronically. The effective date is December 15th. What should a healthcare provider do if they are not currently setup? First, a clearinghouse needs to be contracted with and EDI/ERA agreements need to be completed with insurance companies requiring them. This process can take 2-4 weeks at a minimum. Please call us; we can help.

What does this mean for every provider? You can see states adopting electronic requirements. If you are still “holding out”, on the electronic world, it's really not that difficult. We will get you started. Call us to help. We are your Billing Buddies. Ph: (888) 322-2455 or (763) 546-2455

GatewayEDI—Excellent Options

There are many clearinghouses to choose from on the market. If you haven't done so already, we would encourage you to go to www.google.com and enter “electronic claims clearinghouse” in the search bar. You will receive over 7000 matches. Each of them having different pricing and terms. After working with a series of clearinghouses, our company came upon GatewayEDI and we have stuck with them. Why? They have great customer service; answering the phone and emails quickly. Their product works flawlessly and their web portal has streamlined our office policies. Plus, they have great pricing; starting at 39 cents per claim going up to \$114 per for unlimited everything. Call us today!

Billing Services Offered by Billing Buddies

Our billing service business has really taken off the ground and is growing fast. Why is our company different? Frankly, over 15 years of handling billing services, we have found that many clinics still want to maintain control over their billing. But, they need help doing the more time intensive tasks. So, we created a hybrid. In essence, we “buddy up” with our clients. While we are flexible on our division of labor; here’s how most clinics split the work. Call Billing Buddies today to discuss your needs.

Clinic Tasks

- Schedule Appts
- Enter Charges
- Enter Payments
- Proof Work

Billing Buddies Tasks

- Send Claims
- Send Statements
- Work EDI Rejects
- Work Remit Rejects
- Follow-up on Unpaid Accts
- Maintain Software and WAN
- Backup Data
- File Maintenance

medisoft™ Version 15 Service Pack 2 was released on November 2nd. For a complete list of updates, installation instructions and to download the service pack; go to www.medisoft.com/kb.

Fall Billing Tips

Important tips to know regarding Medisoft:

- 1) Medisoft has issued Service Pack 2 of Version 15. It can be received for free at www.medisoft.com/kb.
- 2) We are going to the next training for Version 16 in

- January 2010. Version 16 will be reviewed. It should be compatible with Windows 7 and the 64 bit operating systems.
- 3) The estimated release date for Version 16 is March or April.
- 4) If you haven't upgraded

to version 15 yet, now is the time to do so. Providers who upgrade one version at a time save hundreds of dollars. Call us now for a quote and to compare your options.

Phone: (888) 322-2455 or
(763) 546-2455



Upgrade Medisoft before Dec. 31st for 2009 tax benefits.

Billing Buddies
8459 10th Ave N
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AMBA Invites Bonnie J. Flom to Speak at Las Vegas Seminar

The American Medical Billing Association (AMBA) requested Bonnie J. Flom, author of Mastering Medisoft, to speak at their annual convention in October at the Rivera in Las Vegas. Bonnie spoke about her book and the “Daily Basics of Medical Billing” illustrating the 10 tasks that should be addressed by the medical biller.

In addition, these tasks are addressed in the book published by Pearson Education called “Mastering Medisoft”. The book was released in May 2009 and is currently in use by over 200 colleges.

If you would like a free copy of the Power Point Slide used in the Las Vegas presentation, email teresa@billingbuddies.com.



December Special for SpringCharts

The top three reasons to purchase SpringCharts before December 31st?

- 1) You will have the opportunity to qualify for the first Stimulus payment in 2011.
- 2) You will save time and increase your office efficiency.
- 3) You will receive a **free 4-Pack** of Medisoft support to compliment your new EHR program. (\$300 Value)

What more could you ask for? Call to schedule your free personal demo with Bonnie. The sooner you start the sooner you save.