

# Advisory Bulletin



Important Industry Information for our Valued Customers

## AIF Reduced for 2016 Tighten up your Documentation

The Ambulance Inflation Factor for 2016 has been announced, unfortunately the AIF is negative **0.4%**. This means that ambulance services will see a slight reduction in Medicare reimbursement rates next year. Now it is even more important to make sure your documentation and billing process is the most efficient and effective.

Take some time to revisit some easy but frequently missed areas of documentation:

1. Have a plan, "Paint the Picture". Paint that worse case scenario without fabricating anything. Remember, MEDICAL NECESSITY!
2. Chief Complaint is a collection of what the patient tells your AND your assessment. Avoid vagueness; show your medical training (ie. Bleeding vs Hemorrhage; or Flu like symptoms vs malaise, nausea, fever)
3. History should include HPI (History of present illness) and PMH (Past Medical History)
4. Use accepted terminology and abbreviations
5. Auto- Narratives are an efficiency; not a cop out. Remember, your report is now part of the patients permanent record.
6. Loaded miles to a tenth of a mile
7. Accurate demographics including patient's full name and apartment number.

The reduction in the AIF plus the affects the Affordable Care Act is having on our industry is creating more downward pressure on revenues than ever before. Now is a good time to tighten up your documentation.