

HOME

ABOUT US

CALENDAR

JOIN IMS

SEMINARS

- » LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
- » OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
- » PUBLIC HEALTH
- » PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
- » CME
- » COMMUNICATIONS
- » LINKS
- » MEDICARE
- » MEDICAID
- » PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE
- » IMS JOB BANK *(new!)*
- » MEMBER BENEFITS
- » PHYSICIANS CORNER
- » SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

Home » News Article

Reminder: New laws effective July 1

June 13, 2008



Four new laws of interest to Iowa physicians go into effect on July 1, 2008. Please make sure your office is aware of these important changes:

1. Physicians can receive payment for covered services provided during the credentialing period.

Because of IMS efforts during the legislative session, a new law goes into effect requiring insurers to pay clean claims for covered services provided while a physician is being credentialed. These claims will be paid once the physician is credentialed by the insurer.
2. Only a medical examiner can certify a death if it is caused by anything other than natural causes.

If a death is a direct or indirect result of "non-natural causes" such as physical, chemical, thermal, or electrical trauma; drug or alcohol intoxication; or other poisoning, the county or state medical examiner must be notified and will conduct an inquiry. If a decedent is a child and the cause of death is unknown, a medical examiner's inquiry must be conducted and an autopsy performed as necessary to exclude non-natural causes of death.
3. Minors can consent to medical services related to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of a sexually transmitted disease or infection.

Previously, Iowa law provided minors with the legal capacity to act and give consent to medical care related to diagnosis and treatment of a sexually transmitted disease or infection by a hospital, clinic, or health care provider. Under the new law, minors now have the legal capacity to consent to preventive services as well. This would include the ability for a minor female to consent to an HPV vaccination.
4. Offices must follow a revised medical record fee structure for records associated with litigation.

Changes have been made to medical record copying fees. Under the new law, providers must charge the Workers' Compensation rates for medical records provided as part of litigation. Some key points of the new law:

 - o The changes apply only to those records associated with litigation.
 - o The request must be in writing from the patient, the patient's legal representative, the patient's attorney, or the adverse party in litigation.
 - o If the request comes from someone other than the patient or the patient's legal representative, it must be accompanied by a legally sufficient waiver from the patient authorizing release of the record.
 - o If requested, a provider must include an affidavit certifying the records; the provider's affidavit fee cannot be more than \$10.
 - o The records must be provided within 30 days of receipt of the written request.

More News

02/22/10
AMA makes urgent request to address flawed payment system

02/18/10
IMS seeks applicants for Leadership Scholarships

02/17/10
March 17 is Medicare participation deadline

02/17/10
Medicare Payment Reform: Call your Senators Today!

02/17/10
IMS Annual Meeting

02/11/10
BREAKING NEWS

01/29/10
Physician volunteers needed to support Haiti relief efforts

01/22/10
Wellmark PAC welcomes physician comments for next meeting

01/22/10
National health reform stalls, state efforts continue

08/17/09
Health reform comparison tool now available

- o A provider can choose to not release the entire medical record because of HIPAA concerns. In that instance, the provider must give written notice to the party requesting the record.
- o Parties are also entitled to one free copy of a patient's complete billing statement, subject only to postal/delivery charges.
- o A provider can request all payments in advance, but only if an itemized statement demanding payment is provided to the requesting party within 15 days of the request.

Below is the current Workers' Compensation fee structure. IMS will continue to advocate for positive updates to the fees.

- \$20 for 1-20 pages
- \$20 + \$1 per page for 21-30 pages
- \$30 + \$.50 per page for 31-100 pages
- \$65 + \$.25 per page for 101-200 pages
- \$90 + \$.10 per page for more than 200 pages
- Actual postage charges may also be included.

More information on the new laws:

Insurance Credentialing: Iowa Code Section 514F.6 was changed in **HF 2555**.

Non-natural Deaths/Medical Examiners: Iowa Code Section 144.28(1) was changed in **SF 2177**.

Minor Consent: Iowa Code Section 139A.35 was changed in **SF 2177**.

Medical Record Fees: Iowa Code Section 622.10 was changed in **HF 2637**.

[Read the legislation and access Iowa Code.](#)

[Home](#) - [Contact Us](#) - [Feedback](#) - [Help](#)

Copyright 2010 - 2011 Iowa Medical Society. All rights reserved.

1001 Grand Avenue • West Des Moines, IA 50265 • Phone: (515) 223-1401 Fax: (515) 223 - 0590