

Provider Bulletin

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Administrative Offices

110 Castilian Dr.
Goleta, CA 93117
805.685.9525

1288 Morro St., Suite 100
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805.543.4099

Toll Free 1.800.421.2560

CenCalHealth.org

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The Provider Bulletin is produced as a timely supplemental information service for provider office staff and is published monthly by the Provider Services Department. Questions and/or suggestions for articles may be made to:

Suzzi Tyler (styler@cencalhealth.org),

Theresa Merkle (tmerkle@cencalhealth.org),

Amy Abbott (aabbott@cencalhealth.org),
or Ashley Erickson (aerickson@cencalhealth.org)

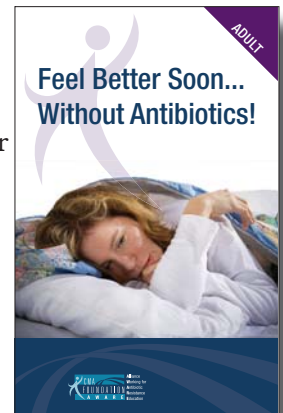
at 110 Castilian Drive, Goleta, CA 93117-3028, or by calling 805.685.9525 or 800.421.2560, ext. 1676.

COUGH AND COLD PATIENT KITS

Cough and cold kits are now available on the CMA Foundation Alliance Working for Antibiotic Resistance Education (AWARE) web site. It can be challenging to educate patients to understand that antibiotics will not alleviate their symptoms or cure their cold or other viral infection. Studies have shown that patients leave their physician's office satisfied when they receive a contingency plan or tips to soothe their discomfort.

Each kit contains educational materials (English and Spanish) from AWARE as well as a packet of tissues, a "fever strip" and sample of cold/cough products. Orders can be placed through a link on the AWARE web-site: <http://www.aware.md/healthcareprofessional/coughcoldkits.aspx>.

Your physician Medical Education (ME) number will be required to place your request for these kits. The ME number is a 10-digit number assigned to every physician member of the American Medical Association. Physicians who are not members of the AMA may find out their ME number by calling the AMA. For more information, please contact Kim Osajda, RN 805.562.1649.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION SEMINAR

This seminar is for front line service providers to review the significant changes and challenges in immunizations for 2010. The seminar will include:

- A review of the new vaccines that were licensed and introduced in 2009-2010
- Vaccines that have pending Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval and may be licensed in 2010
- Vaccine storage, handling, and administration
- The federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
- The 2010 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Harmonized Recommended Childhood, Adolescent and Adult Immunization Schedule(s) will be highlighted and the recently published ACIP statements will be described

This event is sponsored by the California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Immunization Program.

Date: March 23, 2010	Date: March 24, 2010
Time: 8:00 am – Noon	Time: 8:00 am – Noon
Place: Santa Maria Public Health 2115 S. Centerpointe Pkwy, Santa Maria	Place: Santa Barbara Public Health 300 N. San Antonio Road, Santa Barbara

Registration: You must contact the Immunization Program at 805.346.8433 or email aalmagu@sbcphd.org no later than March 13, 2010 to register.

CLAIMS

CORNER

The Claims Corner is designed to alert providers to any changes in billing procedures, and to help providers avoid common billing mistakes.

REMINDER: Correct Diagnostic Coding

ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes are composed of 3, 4 or 5 digits. Codes with three digits are included in the ICD-9-CM as the heading of a category of codes that may further be subdivided by the use of fourth and/or fifth digits, which provide greater specificity. A three-digit code may be used ONLY if it is not further subdivided. Where fourth-digit sub-categories and/or fifth-digit sub-classifications are provided, they must be used. For example, a fourth and fifth-digit is required for all category 250 codes (diabetes mellitus) to identify the type of diabetes and whether the diabetes is controlled or uncontrolled.

Please remember that it is incorrect to report any diagnosis code without the required fourth or fifth digit, and doing so may result in claim denial.

Billing for Global OB Services: Postpartum Visit

The following billing instructions apply to CenCal Health's Medi-Cal (Santa Barbara and San Luis Health Initiative) programs only.

The use of CPT codes: 59400, 59610, 59510 or 59618 indicate that the physician provided pre-natal care, delivery, and post-natal care. Routine postpartum visits are not billed separately. However, CenCal Health has allowed post-partum visits to be **paid separately** from the global OB code. Did you know that post-partum visits are separately billable? Providers are encouraged to carefully follow the billing instructions outlined in the next paragraph in order to receive full reimbursement for the global rate and to facilitate the accurate collection of data.

Following delivery, providers should bill the appropriate "global service" code only if the physician provided prenatal care in addition to the delivery. Then, following the member's first postpartum visit, bill CenCal Health using the HCPCS code Z1038 and you will receive separate payment for that visit. Any additional postpartum visits should not be billed separately.

Laboratory Split-Bill Modifier Reminder

Effective for dates of service on or after February 1, 2010, CenCal Health implemented the following changes for our Medi-Cal (Santa Barbara and San Luis Health Initiative) programs:

Laboratory procedure codes listed below are **no longer** split-billable using modifiers -26 or -TC. These modifiers, as well as modifier -ZS, were end-dated effective dates of service January 31, 2010 for all laboratory procedure codes that have been defined as non-split-billable.

Applicable CPT-4 Codes are as follows:

80047 – 80076, 80100 – 80103, 80150 – 80299, 80400 – 80440, 80500 – 80502, 81000 – 81099, 82000 – 83018, 83021 – 83909, 83913 – 84163, 84202 – 84999, 85002 – 85055, 85130 – 85385, 85397 – 85557, 85597 – 85999, 86000 – 86063, 86140 – 86243, 86277 – 86318, 86329 – 86332, 86336 – 86480, 86485 – 86580, 86590 – 86849, 87001 – 87158, 87166 – 87206, 87209 – 87999

To avoid a delay in payment due to claim denial, providers are reminded that codes that are not split-billable may not be billed with modifier 26, TC or ZS.

For questions on any information provided in the Claims Corner, please contact the Claims Department at 805.562.1083.

OBESITY SUMMIT A SUCCESS

CenCal Health hosted its 3rd annual Childhood Obesity Summit in Santa Maria on February 2, 2010. There were over 100 individuals from our community in attendance, including providers and staff from public health departments, community clinics, schools and health advocate programs in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Evaluations received have been very positive. If you could not attend, but would like to receive the Program packet handouts, please contact our Health Education Department at 805.562.1662 or healthed@cencalhealth.org.



Suzanne Michaud,
Lyle Luman, Jennifer Fraser

CORRECTION TO DECEMBER PROVIDER BULLETIN ARTICLE

December's Provider Bulletin included an article on Senate Bill SB853 Health Care Language Assistance. There is a correction to the phone number listed in the article. **A provider can request a Spanish speaking or American Sign Language interpreter by calling the Member Services Department at 877.814.1861.**