The Colorado Clean Claims Transparency and Uniformity Act legislation was enacted by Colorado House Bill 10-1332 in 2010. As a part of this legislation, a Clean Claims Task Force was established. It has been meeting for nearly two years. The Colorado Radiological Society and the ACR were unaware of this legislation and its potential impact on all physicians’ practices until August 2012. The CRS was made aware of this Task Force when the ACR was notified in August 2012 by the AMA, which had been participating since the Task Force’s origin.

The goal of the Task Force, ostensibly, is to create one consistent and uniform set of payment rules and coding edits for all providers and payers, with the exception of Medicare, so that all claims are processed appropriately (cleanly) and promptly by all payers.

The Task Force received no state funding and to date has been funded by contributions from a variety of organizations which may have a vested interest in reimbursement beyond simply coding and edits.

Task Force members include representatives from the insurance industry (e.g., Kaiser, UnitedHealth, CIGNA, Rocky Mountain Health Plans, Humana, and Anthem), provider organizations (e.g., Colorado Medical Society, AMA, University Physicians, Denver Health, and University Hospital) payment systems vendors (e.g. McKesson, Verisk), government (Medicaid) and other experts. The Task Force also is working with the National Commission on Vital Health Statistics (NCVHS), National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI), and other states. There is only one practicing physician, a radiologist, on the Task Force.

While the Task Force’s goal of prompt payment for appropriately processed claims is laudable, as the old saying goes “the devil lies in the details”. A big issue for the Task Force is determining which set of edits and payment rules to adopt. Their choice could have significant implications for radiology. If they adopt the federal CMS payment rules for patient imaging studies performed on the same day, the “Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction” (MPPR) that has been applied to both the

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Medical Procedure Payment Reduction Continued...

...technical and professional components of radiology, our specialty could take a big financial hit, far bigger than the hit we’ve already taken for the Medicare and Medicaid patients. The MPPR would reduce physician professional component payment for multiple procedures performed on the same day by 25%. If the Task Force Report to the Colorado legislature and Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing (HCPF) includes such a recommendation and if the Task Force Report were subsequently adopted by the legislature, then all private carriers would be forced to negotiate insurance contracts with Colorado physicians on the basis of a 25% reduction in reimbursement when multiple procedures are performed on the same day. Radiologists must decide whether prompt payment i.e. a clean claim is worth a 25% reduction in reimbursement on high end imaging procedures.

The Colorado Radiological Society is providing input to all involved parties participating in the Task Force efforts. The CRS met with the Task Force co-chairs in August. The result of that meeting was the appointment of a radiologist to the Task Force. The CRS also was successful in obtaining a resolution from the Colorado Medical Society that opposes further MPPR rules without study and appropriate justification. The Colorado Medical Society recently sent a letter to radiologists in Colorado stating that they are opposed to the federal CMS radiology professional MPPR. The CRS sent a letter to the Task Force stating our opposition and that of the majority of the medical community to the adoption of the federal CMS radiology professional MPPR rule in the Task Force’s Report. Additionally, the CRS is working closely with the ACR economics staff and leaders in addressing the fallacy of the MPPR and its potential expansion into the Colorado Clean Claims legislation.

The actions of this Task Force and the implementing Clean Claims legislation have the potential for both positive and negative impact for all Colorado physicians including radiologists. Radiologists and their groups would benefit by attending the open meetings and the conference calls of the Task Force committees and offering input on Task Force activities.

2012 Task Force Meeting Schedule

November 28, 3 – 4 pm: Edit Committee Meeting
December 12, 3 – 4 pm: Edit Committee Meeting
December 13, 10 am – 12 pm: DSR Committee Meeting
December 19, 12 pm – 2 pm: Full Task Force Meeting

* All Task Force Meeting Times are MST (Mountain Standard Time)
ACR Fellows

Congratulations to the following CRS members on receiving recognition as Fellows of the American College of Radiology:

**APPROVED FOR AWARD IN 2013:**
- Matthew J Fleishman, MD
- Richard Gonzalo Obregon, MD
- Andrew H Sonin, MD
- David I Thickman, MD

**APPROVED FOR AWARD IN 2014:**
- Kevin Earl Woolley, MD

**APPROVED FOR AWARD IN 2015:**
- Patrick Joseph O’Malley, MD

ACR Fellows demonstrate a history of service to the College, to the practice of radiology, to education and to research.

Second Annual Leadership Summit a Success

CRS sponsored the Second Annual Colorado Radiology Leadership Summit in August. The afternoon was spent discussing the current status of Colorado healthcare reform and its potential impact on radiology. The presentations included:

- ACC/RCCO
  - Julie Holtz, Colorado Access

- Benefits Exchange
  - Myung Kim, Colorado Health Benefit Exchange

- RAC Audits
  - Joan Halstead, State of Colorado Recovery Audit Contract

- CIVHC Updates, Impact on Radiology
  - Edie Sonn and Jay Want, MD, CIVHC

- Healthcare Reform in Colorado
  - Alfred Gilchrist, Colorado Medical Society
The first annual International Day of Radiology (IDoR) took place on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012. The mission of this very special day was to build greater awareness of the value of radiology research, diagnosis and treatment in patient care and the vital role of radiologists in health care delivery.

IDoR informed the public and lawmakers that radiology saves lives, resources and time and is essential to modern health care. More than 66 medical societies in 38 countries around the world took part in the November 8th IDoR celebration.

For more information, visit www.IDOR2012.com or www.radiologyinfo.org.

International Day of Radiology is sponsored by the American College of Radiology, the European Society of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America.

Educational Programs

CRS is enjoying our new meeting location at the JW Marriott in Cherry Creek. We look forward to our upcoming speakers:

November 15, 2012  Donald Frush, MD  January 17, 2013  Hollis Potter, MD (Kilcoyne Lecture)
February 21, 2013  David Yousem, MD  March 14, 2013  Hugh Curtin, MD
April 18, 2013  Denise Aberle, MD

Our monthly meetings are approved for 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ through a joint sponsorship with St. Anthony Hospital. For a full schedule and to register for a meeting, please visit our website: http://www.acr.org/Membership/Chapters/Colorado-Radiological-Society/Meetings.