

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Plans of Care are taking ACS a minimum of two weeks to process so those amendments made in the last half of the month may not be on the system when you are ready to bill for services at the beginning of the next month. Wait for the prior authorization letter to be sure the amendment has been entered.

The best strategy is to plan ahead as much as possible so the only amendments are the result of a change in the client's circumstances. As I have addressed in earlier newsletters, when an amendment is submitted before the new or renewal Plan of Care is processed there is always confusion which can delay payment.

Many of the amendments we receive within the first month of a Plan of Care are due to an error. Please check the Plans before faxing them to us as some of the amendments can be avoided. &



I didn't ask for it to be over, but then again, I never asked for it to begin. For that's the way it is with life, as some of the most beautiful days come completely by chance. But even the most beautiful days have their sunsets.



MAY



Next month we will complete 10 years of operation of the LTC/HCBS Waiver. It has been 10 very productive years. We have served 3061 individuals with 220 providers. The average length of stay on the waiver is about 3 1/4 years and the average LT101 points have remained stable at about 16 points. The top 2 diagnoses are still hypertension and diabetes. Heart disease has been replaced as #3 by neurosis. Multiple

sclerosis appeared on the top 10 diagnoses for the first time this month. The 46 - 64 age group now comprises 40% of the total waiver clients.

This program is successful only because there are so many of you who are committed to giving the clients the care they need and are willing to go that extra mile to keep them in their own homes. Thank you, you keep making us look good! &

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PRESCRIPTION HELP FOR SENIORS

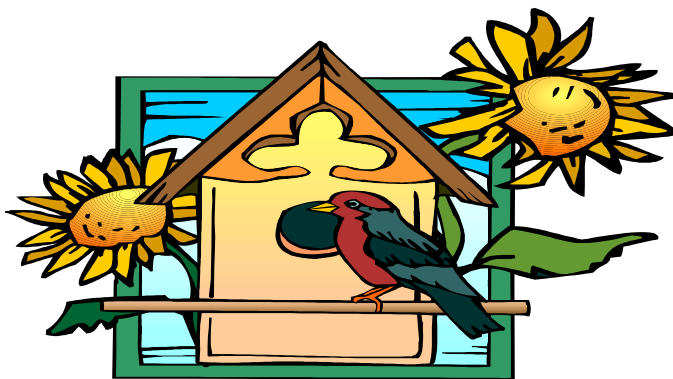
The National Council on the Aging is proud to announce the launch of BenefitsCheckUpRx, a free confidential screening tool that provides seniors with a comprehensive and personalized listing of their eligibility for over 240 prescription drug savings programs covering nearly 800 medications. The service is fast, free, and completely confidential.

BenefitsCheckUpRx is a major expansion to NCOA's popular BenefitsCheckUp, a Web site that has provided more than 820,000 eligibility reports for federal and state benefit programs to older Americans.

By visiting www.BenefitsCheckUp.org <<http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>>, older Americans, their families and caregivers can now quickly determine what prescription savings programs a senior qualifies for and how to claim them. Once users complete a brief questionnaire, the service displays a personalized report specifying all the programs they are eligible for and detailed instructions on how to enroll.

The development of BenefitsCheckUpRx has been supported by Lucent Technologies/Avaya/Agere Family Care Development Fund, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and FJC-A Foundation of Donor-Advised Funds.

NCOA believes that the only viable long-term solution is a new prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare, but in the meantime, there are literally millions of older persons who can save money by using the BenefitsCheckUpRx service. ☺



RENEWALS

July renewals are upon us again! We will be putting nearly 300 of them into the system and, to make it even more interesting, Colleen is spending the first 3 weeks of June in Switzerland (maybe to be away from the phone?). Susan will be attempting to keep up with the renewals as they come in and I will help where I can so we are asking (pleading?) that you get your renewals faxed to us as early in the month as possible.

We do realize that you all have more renewals to do than most months and that the Public Health Nurses have all those LT101s to do as well. Every year the January and July renewals look like insurmountable problems, but we do manage to master them. I am sure with some planning we can do it again. ☺

*In June we will be
putting nearly 300 renewal
Plans of Care into the system.*

WAITING LISTS UPDATE

The LTC/HCBS Waiver waiting list has once again gone over the 200 mark, 208 to be exact.

It is important to move as quickly as possible when a slot opens up for one of your clients. If there is a delay in reaching the client please let us know so we can move someone else up. We have a number of people that we have had to call the Case Manager several times to find out the status of the person who has a slot available.

The Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Waiver now

has a waiting list of 23. There has not been any movement since early April so we may need new LT101s as a slot opens up for these clients.

As before, feel free to call our office to inquire about your client's placement on the list. It helps to anticipate when the slot may be available so the client can be located and a new LT101 can be ordered which may help to avoid delays when the slot actually opens up. ☺



Dust if You Must

“A house becomes a home when you can write ‘I love you’ on the furniture.”

I can't tell you how many countless hours that I have spent **CLEANING!** I used to spend at least 8 hours every weekend making sure things were just perfect - “in case someone came over”. Then I realized one day that no one came over; they were all out living and having fun!

Now, when people visit, I find no need to explain the “condition” of my home. They are more interested in hearing about the things I have been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, please heed this advice.

- Z Life is short. Enjoy it!
- Z Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better to paint a picture or write a letter, bake a cake or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need?
- Z Dust if you must, but there's not much time, with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, friends to cherish and life to lead.
- Z Dust if you must, but the world's out there with the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair, a flutter of snow, a shower of rain. This day will not come around again.
- Z Dust if you must, but bear in mind, old age will come and it's not kind. And when you go - and go you must - you, yourself will make more dust!

It is not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.





Case Manager Training

June 12, 2003

10 am - 3 pm

at

Riverton Public Library

1330 Park Avenue

Riverton, WY



HOME SWEET HOME

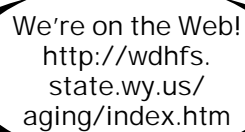


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