

Medicare's Signature Crackdown

Who Owns That Squiggly Line on the Bottom of Your PCS Form?

A PWW Educational Webinar

Westerly Ambulance Corps invites area EMS, Hospital and Nursing facility personnel to join us for this informative webinar. There is no fee for the event, however, RSVP's are requested.

Where: Westerly Ambulance Corps
30 Chestnut St., Westerly

When: Wednesday, June 23, 2010
1:45 - 3:30 pm

Cost: Free

RSVP: dreese@westerlyambulance.org

Page, Wolfberg & Wirth is a nationally recognized firm specializing in legal issues in the EMS industry.

It is common practice to get a medical necessity certification from a physician for a non-emergency medical transport. More often than not, you can't read the illegible signature scribbled on the bottom of the form. Medicare recently issued new guidance that signals a major crackdown on this practice. If you can't prove that the squiggly line on the bottom of your PCS form is a clinician who is authorized to sign a PCS form, then Medicare has directed its reviewers to disregard the form entirely and collect a refund of the reimbursement you received.

This critical webinar will review the new Medicare signature verification guidelines, issued a few weeks ago, and will review important new issues such as:

- What constitutes an acceptable signature?
- Can fax signatures meet the requirement?
- Are electronic signatures valid?
- What is a signature "attestation statement" and how can it help me?

We will also review best practices for redesigning your critical forms to ensure compliance with this new CMS directive and discuss strategies like signature logs and other verification techniques to ensure that you meet Medicare's payment guidelines.