July Update & CMA Perspective on Your PacifiCare/United PPO Contracts

Update on Termination Dates & Payments.
If you have asked SCCIPA to terminate your PacifiCare PPO contract, it is very important that you monitor your termination date and inform your patients when your contract has expired.

We have received and forwarded to PacifiCare contract terminations from over 400 SCCIPA physicians. We will be contacting individual SCCIPA providers by mail with actual termination dates.

However, we have received an email from PacifiCare stating that, due to systems issues, they are not loading termination dates. This means, even after your PPO contract has expired, your patients will be told that your office is still a member of their network and you will continue to be paid at the lower-than-Medicare rates until your term date is loaded.

• As soon as you receive your termination date, your office is advised to post a notice for your patients that you have terminated your contract with PacifiCare PPO as of the effective date.
• You are also advised to monitor PacifiCare claims payments for dates of service after the termination date to make sure you are not being paid the below-Medicare rate.

CMA Analysis of PacifiCare/United Physician Contract.
A number of SCCIPA physicians have requested PacifiCare to provide them with INDIVIDUAL contracts for them to review.

In response to calls from concerned physicians, CMA prepared an extensive PacifiCare/United Contract Analysis that is posted in the NEWS section on the SCCIPA Access Express website at www.ppmsi.com/login.

If you do not have your own password for the site, please call the Access Express Help Desk at 877-258-4357 (258-HELP).

In addition to the issues covered by CMA, you are advised to pay particular attention to these three:

1. The Termination clause.
Physicians are permitted to terminate the agreement only once a year, on 90 days prior written notice, the date of which must coincide with the contract effective date.

PacifiCare/United can change the manual any time without permission from contracting providers. This applies to a number of financial issues like pricing, claims payment timelines, downcoding, etc.

3. Adding Additional Health Plans.
PacifiCare/United can add any new PacifiCare/United benefit plans to the contract. This allows them to substitute the new Individual contract to replace existing SCCIPA PacifiCare HMO/Point of Service, and Secure Horizons contracts. This means that rather than negotiate a contract with SCCIPA, PacifiCare could move their members to this new direct contract.

TO TERMINATE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN PACIFIWARE PPO
PRINT & SIGN BELOW -- FAX YOUR RESPONSE TO HA ON AT 1-866-422-5418
DISREGARD IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED

☐ Please terminate my participation in PacifiCare PPO.
I understand this has NO effect on my PacifiCare HMO contract.

Name (PRINT) __________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________ Date ________________________________

Signature ____________________________________________________________