

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

APA PRACTICE MANAGEMENT HELPLINE

The Practice Management HelpLine, (800) 343-4871 or hsf@psych.org, which we refer you to throughout this book, assists APA members in locating up-to-date information on managed care and other practice management issues. HelpLine staff may also be able intervene with insurers on behalf of members who have been unable to negotiate appropriate solutions to difficulties they are having with the companies on their own. The HelpLine serves as a clearinghouse for managed care issues, documenting APA members' experiences that exemplify the shortcomings as well as the successes of managed care. The data collected from the HelpLine is reviewed periodically by the appropriate governing bodies within the APA to identify trends and determine if action needs to be taken on a national level.

APA WEBSITE

There is a wealth of material available on practice management issues to be found on the APA's website under the heading PRACTICE. Among the topics covered are: Coding and Reimbursement, Medicare, Medicaid, Electronic Health Records, CPT Coding, Starting a Practice, and Closing a Practice.

APA LEGAL CONSULTATION PLAN

The APA also has a Legal Consultation Plan that's available to its members, per the terms of the agreement. Anne Marie "Nancy" Wheeler, J.D., is the director of the Consultation Plan, and will furnish the services described below to APA members who enroll in it.

Option 1 – Quarterly e-newsletter covering issues related to the practice of psychiatry and an FAQ section (no individual consultations) [\$145]

Option 2 – Quarterly e-newsletter and up to one hour of consultation and/or research [\$395]

Option 3 – Quarterly e-newsletter and up to two hours of consultation and/or research [\$495]

For more information, call (301) 384-6775.

WRITTEN MATERIALS

The Office of Healthcare Systems and Financing's *Psychiatric Practice & Managed Care* is published as a page in *Psychiatric News* several times each

year. It is filled with up-to-date practical information on billing, coding, managed care issues, industry news, and legal updates. For more information, call (800) 343-4671.

The APA's Office of Healthcare Systems and Financing also publishes a number of informational papers that can be found on the APA website. Topics covered relating to managed care include:

- Evaluation and Management Coding and Documentation
- Appealing Treatment and Reimbursement Denials
- Terminating Physician/Patient Relationships
- Medicare as Secondary Payer (and other Medicare issues)
- Opting Out of Medicare
- Contracting

APA POSITION PAPERS

The APA Board of Trustees has approved several documents important to psychiatrists working in managed care settings including General Principles for the Operation of Managed Mental Health and Substance Abuse Organizations, which is included here as Appendix T.