

# CONSULTANT Connection

News to help you grow your business

November 2016

## In This Issue

- **ACA Nondiscrimination Section 1557: Claim System Age, Gender Updates Effective Jan. 1, 2017**
- **UnitedHealthcare Taking Action to Stem Emergency Department Cost Increases**
- **Transitional Reinsurance Fee Quiz Question**
- **CMS 2017 Star Ratings Released**
- **University of California and UnitedHealth Group to Collaborate, Work Strategically to Improve Health Care**

## Online Chemotherapy Approval Protocol Accelerates Cancer Patients' Access to Proven Treatments



A study of a new web-based tool piloted with select medical oncology practices found that cancer patients received expedited treatment approvals and reduced costs of therapy. All treatments were evidence-based and in alignment with nationally accepted guidelines for cancer chemotherapy.

## Mental Health Parity Testing Information for Self-funded Customers



The U.S. Department of Labor may be issuing additional guidance that may allow some level of non-plan specific claim data to be used for Mental Health Parity testing. However, the timing of the guidance is uncertain.

## Message from Brian Luehne, VP, Consultant Relations



UnitedHealthcare is pleased to share the results of a study using a **new online chemotherapy approval protocol** that offers a significant opportunity to reduce the cost of cancer therapy while expediting treatment approvals and increasing coverage approval rates. In this issue, learn about this web-based decision-support tool and how it is transforming the prior authorization process.

Also, read about our **collaboration with the University of California**, where we are jointly leveraging our resources and unique capabilities to stimulate health care innovation, promote advancements in clinical research, and improve health outcomes and patient care.

We wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Products, Programs and Resources

- **2017 Customized Digital Welcome Guides Now Available; Order Deadline Dec. 5, 2016**  
Self-funded (ASO) customers can now order customized



### Upcoming Webinar: Behavioral Health Strategies

Please join us Wednesday,

digital welcome guides for the 2017 plan year. A number of plan designs are available, including health reimbursement account (HRA) and health savings account (HSA).

■ **Optum Consolidates Biometric Screening Services; Partners with Quest Diagnostics Effective Jan. 1, 2017**

As Optum's primary partner for member biometric screening services, Quest Diagnostics will serve 100 percent of onsite events, provide the new biometric registration site, distribute at-home kits, perform lab processing, and other operational components in the biometric process.

■ **Jan. 1, 2017 PDL Updates for Hemophilia Factor Products and Treatment Cost Drivers**

The recombinant hemophilia factor products approved for the treatment of hemophilia A (Factor VIII (8) deficiency) and hemophilia B (Factor IX (9) deficiency) were reviewed and changes were made to UnitedHealthcare's Prescription Drug List for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Nov. 30 from 3:00PM - 4:00PM EST for a webinar on UnitedHealth Group's Behavioral Health Strategies. You can register to attend [HERE](#).



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