



VHS NEWS

Valley Hope Solutions has been providing billing and administrative services for behavioral health issues for more than 50 years, we are even more focused today on keeping our stakeholders informed of leading stories and issues pertaining to our ever-changing industry. We hope this serves to be an informative resource, while providing helpful tips, networking events and educational opportunities. Thank you for your continued support of Valley Hope Solutions - enjoy the journey with us!

www.ValleyHopeSolutions.com

It's estimated that Medical Practices who perform thier own billing can potentially leave 10 - 40% of reimbursements on the table. Reimbursements are detrimental to a facilities livelihood and Valley Hope Solutions has the professional staff to get the highest reimbursement possible.



DID YOU KNOW?



DENIED CLAIMS:

Denied claims have been determined by an insurance company to be unpayable. Typically, insurance companies state the reasons for denial in the explanation of benefits (EOBs) attached to the claim. Claims can also be denied due to common billing errors, missing information, or termed coverage. Denied claims can be appealed and reprocessed in some cases.

INDUSTRY INFO



PHYSICIANS FOR FAIR COVERAGE PROPOSE BAN ON SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS FOR OUT-OF-NETWORK CARE, CREATION OF REIMBURSEMENT STANDARDS

Physicians for Fair Coverage, a non-profit, non-partisan physician alliance, has partnered with both state and national consumer organizations on a legislation model to protect patients from surprise out-of-network medical bills that they hope will inspire federal lawmakers.

The proposal seeks to ban providers and insurers from balance billing patients for unanticipated out-of-network care, also known as surprise medical bills. It creates a national protocol for alternative dispute resolution, or ADR, which is a model to prohibit surprise medical bills and establish reimbursement standards...

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VALLEY HOPE BLOG



ALCOHOLISM AND WOMEN: A GROWING EPIDEMIC

Alcoholism among women is a growing epidemic. Although men have historically endured higher rates of alcoholism, women are catching up fast. The rates of alcoholism in the United States are devastating, with 17.6 million people, or one in every 12 adults, suffering from alcohol misuse and several million more engaging in risky, binge drinking patterns. With women consuming alcohol at higher rates and frequency than ever before, the impacts on society could be severe.

A study from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reveals that alcohol use disorder among U.S. women increased by 83.7 percent from 2002 to 2013. In addition, high-risk drinking, defined as more than three drinks in a day or seven in a week for women, has increased among women by about 58 percent.

According to the National Institutes of Health, research shows significant increases in drinking, binge drinking and extreme binge drinking among women. Alcoholism is a progressive disease that can advance from heavy drinking to full blown alcohol use disorder over time...

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OTHER NEWS



HOSPITAL PROGRAMS ADDRESS OPIOID USE DISORDER DURING PREGNANCY

Renee Maloney, RN, was working at the Pregnancy Care Center at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH, when she noticed a disturbing trend about seven years ago. The trend was a steady increase in the number of newborns experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea, shaking, breathing problems and excessive fussiness.

The infants were suffering from neonatal abstinence syndrome, or withdrawal from drugs they had been exposed to in the womb from opioid use disorder.

The trend was fueled by a surge in the number of moms who had gotten hooked on opioids, and Maloney felt compelled to find a way to help these women with their addictions earlier in pregnancy.

She and Nicole Pendenza, BSN, RNC-NIC, director of maternal, child and women's health at the hospital, proposed a plan for a program to provide addiction treatment and recovery services to pregnant women in the area. Hospital leaders were supportive, and the facility opened Roots for Recovery in 2017.

Women in the program have access to prenatal care, individual counseling with a social worker, recovery support groups and a provider who can prescribe medication like buprenorphine, a medication-assisted treatment to help patients reduce or quit using heroin or other opiates...

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IS KRATOM, AN OVER-THE-COUNTER SUPPLEMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO OVERDOSE DEATHS?

In an age where energy boosters, fat loss supplements, and pain relievers are easy to get over the counter, little is known about a supplement known as kratom – an herbal extract which has been linked to at least 91 deaths, according to the CDC.

It has become a go-to for many people suffering from opioid withdrawal and substance abuse, and as kratom becomes more popular in the U.S., scientists are trying to better understand how it affects the body, and how to test for it in people who overdose...

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Valley Hope Solutions' mission is to help with the quality of care for patients seeking mental and behavioral health treatment, by providing billing and support services led by industry experts, so healthcare providers can focus on the most important element of recovery: the patients.

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