SPRING / SUMMER 2018

Advanced Data Systems Corporation™
Innovation and Excellence in Healthcare Systems Since 1977

ADSVANTAGE

MACRA 2018 Update

MACRA / MIPS remains in place for 2018.

So, unless you're exempt from reporting, you must do so in order to avoid a negative impact (penalty) of up to 5% against your 2020 Medicare reimbursements.

Obtaining incentives may even be possible based on the quality of your reporting. Whether you obtain incentives or not, you'll definitely want to **at least avoid the penalty**.

You should have a certified EHR (such as our Medics EHR!) with its built in MACRA dashboard making it easy to track reporting progress, and a vendor who has both collaborations with registries as well as its own in-house team of MACRA experts (such as ADS!).

If you don't already have the Medics EHR simply click ***here*** for information on it for your specialty.

If you're already using the Medics EHR, the ADS MACRA Team is available to help if you have questions on using the MACRA dashboard and with general MACRA questions. Just call ADS Support or email ***softwaresupport@adsc.com***.

Besides MACRA, the Medics EHR is excellent for taking advantage of other lucrative CMS initiatives such as Chronic Care Management (CCM), Transitional Care Management (TCM), Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), and Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+, assuming you already have CPC initiative status).

Avoid penalties and possibly even obtain incentives with ADS and the Medics EHR!

Ongoing Reminder about Unwanted Visitors… to your Medics Systems

You know there's news almost daily about another "big name" intrusion where customer data has been compromised.

It's one thing for this to happen in a retail setting or an online service where debit or credit card, and perhaps personal info is grabbed. It's doubly troublesome when a medical system is invaded since not only is the practice's or healthcare organization's data (billing information, sensitive financial data, etc.) compromised, but patient's personal medical information is as well.

A whole other set of problems will surely materialize in the form of HIPAA and the fines and penalties associated with a healthcare system data breach, especially if it's discovered the entity holding the data was not properly protected with anti-malware software, firewalls, proper security settings, or - believe it or not - if outdated hardware and / or operating systems that are no longer supported were in use leaving any associated software easily vulnerable.

The fallout doesn't end there. Let's not forget about the social media and online comments patients would almost certainly post if their personal and medical information was hacked.

There'd be no way around it: part of operating under HIPAA makes it mandatory to alert patients if their information was compromised.

There are things only you can (MUST) do to prevent this. As you'll see ADS can't help with this other than point out what's needed and recommended:

- have **firewalls**, updated **anti-virus** / **anti-malware** software on the **server(s**) that hold your Medics software, **and on any workstation(s)** that access your Medics software
- that your **router and firewall** aren't configured to allow incoming internet connections into unsecured ports on your network
- make sure your **hardware and operating system are still viable**; (the next to be taken off support are **Windows 7™** and **Server 2008™**, both in January 2020; more on this appears below)
- use good judgment on opening suspicious-looking **emails** and worse, clicking into any **links, attachments or images on those emails**
- stay away from **unsavory websites** and certainly don't click into any links on those websites
- make sure you **always have a recent backup** in case data needs to be restored
- see that users **change their passwords** periodically, say every 90 days

ADS clients who have their own servers are not immune to attack. In fact some have been the victims of the worst kind of cyber assault: **ransom ware**.

This is where practice and patient data is kidnapped and then held hostage pending a large ransom payment which is untraceable. These guys are devious and smart. And then, can you ever really be sure the data to which you're being reconnected hasn't been sold to others even after you've paid? Of course you can't.

Adhering to the bullet points above will go a long way in helping to keep your practice and patient data safe.

Clients accessing their Medics software via the **cloud**, and **MedicsRCM™** clients are ensured the protections needed to keep them safe from intrusion are in place, and that backups are continually performed for them.

They needn't worry about ransom ware, malware, viruses, worms, and open ports. The possibility of their Medics data becoming infected is infinitesimally miniscule to the point of being 99.9999% secure. It would take a cataclysmic invasive event for our remotely hosted servers to be invaded.

ADS cloud and MedicsRCM clients are reminded to also maintain the proper protections as noted above in order to **protect their own** personal files, documents, Excel spreadsheets, etc., that are outside of the Medics software.

Transitioning to either the **ADS cloud** or to **MedicsRCM** provides excellent alternatives to the internet menaces described here. Our hosting is provided by Equinix™, a worldwide leader in secure, cloud accessibility.

For more information on moving to the ADS cloud or to MedicsRCM from Advanced Data Systems RCM, please call **800-899-4237, Ext. 2264** or email ***info@adsc.com***.

A Word on Windows 7 and Sever 2008: "Doomed"

Mainstream support for Windows 7 and Server 2008 ended in 2015, meaning there'd be no new features or updates. They're still usable but they'll be completely abandoned by Microsoft™ on January 14, 2020. After that, they won't be safe to use for the reasons mentioned above.

If you're breached for using Windows 7 or Server 2008 after they've been terminated, you'd pretty much have no defense against the draconian HIPAA violations and damaging fines that would result.

It's not too soon to start thinking about moving to Windows 10. Your Medics software operates under it and migrating to it is inevitable, so why not just get it off your "to do" list?

The ADS IT Team can assist customers by upgrading their existing ADS-supplied Windows 7 and Server 2008 units to Windows 10 and by re-installing the Medics software on those upgraded units, or on new ADS-supplied Windows 10 units.

Call ADS Support at **800-899-4237, Option 1** for assistance on upgrading your ADS-supplied Windows 7 or Server 2008 units to Windows 10, and then re-installing the Medics software.

For purchasing new Lenovo Windows 10 PCs, please call that same number but use extensions **2033** or **2056**.

Paying for CPT Usage

You're probably already aware that the American Medical Association (AMA) holds the copyright to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code set.

For general information on CPT licensing, please click ***here*** or copy and paste ***https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt-licensing*** into your search browser.

From there you'll be able to click into specific licensing information for practices, groups, clinics, and other healthcare organizations. You can also call the AMA directly at **312-464-5022.**

New Medicare Account Numbers

Your Medics system is enabled to accommodate the new, non-social security Medicare account number now known as the "Medicare Beneficiary Identifier" (MBI).

But not just accommodate:

- you'll be able to verify if the patient has received their new card in case the patient has forgotten, eliminating a snag from the outset
- your Medics system has MBI intelligence preventing the inadvertent entry of characters inappropriate to each field:
  - fields can only contain specific ranges of digits or letters; for example, the first field is for digits-only but it can't be a "0" (you'll be prevented from entering a "0")

New MBIs can be entered as patients arrive and you'll probably want to take an image of the new card and attach it to the patient's Medics profile. The Medics system will also retain the old account number for reference if needed, or it can be deleted at any time.

Scanning your way to Data Entry

Speaking of entering and capturing images of new Medicare cards and MBIs, a reminder that **Acuant™** enables quick, error-free and hands-free data entry from drivers' licenses and insurance cards including existing and replacement Medicare cards. It'll also take and store their images if you want that.

Just scan the driver's license or insurance ID card and see the patient's data be inserted into the correct fields in their Medics profile.

Acuant is great for entering information on new patients and for confirming information on returning patients.

With millions of new Medicare cards being issued between April 2018 and April 2019, **now** may be the **perfect** time to consider implementing Acuant!

Contact us at 800-899-4237, Extensions 2033 or 2056 or email ***info@adsc.com*** for more information on Acuant and your Medics system.

TSYS™: Giving Patients Ways to Pay

TSYS makes it easy to accept credit cards, debit cards, automated funds transfers (AFTs) and personal checks.

"Easy to accept" doesn't do it justice since TSYS becomes **embedded into your Medics system** such that authorizations can be easily captured with payments posted directly to the item(s) being paid, whether it's for medical procedures / visits or for purchasable products your practice might be selling.

As one of the world's largest healthcare payer merchants, TSYS makes it almost **impossible for patients to not pay** their co-payments or balances due, either at your front desk or online through the MedicsPortal™ patient pay online feature.

Look for an email in the next few weeks on a TSYS webinar for ADS clients.

With rates being **incredibly competitive**, and with it set fluidly into your Medics system, TSYS is a payment option ADS clients should definitely explore. Contact us at **800-899-4237, Ext. 2264** or email ***info@adsc.com*** for more information on TSYS.

Disclaimer: Some of the features and capabilities described in ADSvantage may not be available for all Medics systems. Contact ADS support if you have questions or need clarifications. Software support, services, resources, and modules are available to ADS clients who have a current Medics software agreement or who have a current Medics cloud subscription. IT support and related services are available to clients who have a current ADS hardware agreement. The governmental information described such as MACRA / MIPS is presented according to our best understanding of them.

Advanced Technology. Simple Solutions.™

Advanced Data Systems Corporation™
Innovation and Excellence in Healthcare Systems Since 1977
(800)899-4237 ext. 2264 • info@adsc.com • www.adsc.com

REV 05/18