

May 2021

Your Monthly Edition

# The Practice Resource

For Physicians and Practice Managers brought to by the 

**"News, Information, Resources and Advice for Today's Medical Practice"**



## ASK-AN-EXPERT | Help when you need it most!

You can submit your questions to this column on topics relating to your Medical Practice ([Ask\\_an\\_expert@bcms.org](mailto:Ask_an_expert@bcms.org)). Our Circle of Friends program has over 50 companies with expertise in almost every area of business that can reply and assist. Monthly we will be featuring the most popular questions and answers for your reference.



We are a HIPAA compliant, full-service medical billing company specializing in medical billing, credentialing, and we provide consulting to physicians and mid-level providers in private practice.

### QUESTION

**I get a lot of denials from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Sometime when I get payments, I am not getting my full contracted rate. How can I improve this?**

### ANSWER

There are 36 independently owned BCBS plans within the United States and surrounding territories. Every plan is responsible for their own region.

#### Let's go over a few terms:

- Local Plan- The plan that is responsible for payment.
- Home Plan- The plan that you are insured with.

In most cases, the local and home plan are the same but there are times they may be different. When this happens, it is important to follow the best course of action.

*To more specifically answer the question, YOU ALWAYS BILL BCBS OF TEXAS.*

If a patient presents any insurance card with a BCBS logo on it (Anthem BCBS, Florida Blue, Regence BCBS, BCBS of Illinois etc.), ALWAYS bill BCBS of Texas. When BCBS of TX receives the claim, they will notice that the patient has an out of state plan. They will contact that plan directly to make sure that the charges you billed are covered. After that, you will get paid by them directly. If the patient has a different home plan and you bill them directly, this can cause your claims to be processed incorrectly and delay reimbursement.

**Note:** If you need to verify benefits or obtain authorization for service, you will have to contact the home plan to get the pertinent information.

**Let us know how we can help you with your receivables.**

Contact



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**QUESTION** *Reprint by Demand:* **Question: Do I code the COVID vaccine the same way I code other vaccines?**

**ANSWER** NO! Coding for the COVID-19 vaccine is completely different. Each brand has its own CPT code and set of administration codes:

**Pfizer Vaccine -**

- 91300
- 0001A- First dose
- 0002A- Second dose

**Moderna -**

- 91301
- 0011A- First dose
- 0012A- Second dose

\*As of now, there is no guidance on how to bill the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. \*Please remember, it is important to use the correct code to prevent denials.

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Contact

**In the Spotlight** | Featuring People, Stories, and Items you should know about.



**Men's Health and Reconstructive Urology**

Alexander Rozanski, MD, is a fellowship-trained urologist who specializes in male genitourinary reconstruction and men's health. His practice includes male urinary incontinence, erectile dysfunction, urethral stricture disease, Peyronie's disease, bladder neck contractures, rectourethral fistulae, genital reconstruction, and benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

**UT HEALTH MEDICAL ARTS AND RESEARCH CENTER**  
8300 Floyd Curl Dr., 4th Floor - 4B, San Antonio, TX 78229

**ROBERT B. GREEN CAMPUS**  
903 W. Martin St., 5th floor, San Antonio, TX 78207

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## National Stop the Bleed Day on May 20

University Health, in partnership with the South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), has been teaching people in south Texas how to immediately take steps to control excessive bleeding. In a one-hour class, our instructors will demonstrate the steps to take when a traumatic bleeding injury threatens a person's life. We will show you how to find the source of life-threatening bleeding, and stop the bleeding by use of pressure.

Register for our virtual call and we will provide a do-it-yourself instruction sheet for gathering materials you can use to practice the techniques demonstrated by our instructors.

[Register](#)



## What Texas Physicians Need to Know About Medicare Mistakes

If you are about to turn 65, we congratulate you! Your 65th birthday isn't just a personal milestone, it is the time you can finally begin drawing the Medicare benefits which you have paid into all your working life.

[Full Story](#)



## TEXAS RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

With all your hard work, you've shown that you have ambition and lots of dreams. Watch our video and learn why we encourage all young residents and fellows to help protect their financial future against serious illness and injury.

At the Texas Medical Association, "we're looking out for you". [Watch now.](#)

[Contact](#)



## TMLT offering more advanced cyber coverage

We are expanding and updating our cyber liability coverage, taking a more proactive approach to managing and defending cyber claims. We have a new cyber insurance partner — [Corvus Insurance](#) — and new services.

Learn more on our [cyber resource page](#) or tune in to our [Cyber Insurance Update webinar](#) on Tuesday, May 25.



## Revised Storage and Handling Instructions for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

**Revised: March 31, 2021**

The guidelines for storage and handling of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine have been revised by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The information provided on the Fact Sheet supersedes the information on the vial and carton labels. Read fact sheet.



## Investigators Conduct First In-human Clinical Trial

**Press Release**

Investigators conduct first in-human clinical trial pioneering a medical device to reverse type 2 diabetes. The Food and Drug Administration has granted an investigational device exemption to conduct a 10-person, first-in-human clinical trial. The study, led by [Richard Peterson, MD](#) and [Ralph DeFronzo, MD](#), uses a patented, proprietary medical device to remove mesenteric visceral fat, which has been associated to multiple diseases, including diabetes, fatty liver and hypertension.

## PLATINUM LEVEL CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS |

We would like to thank our Platinum sponsors for their generous support of the Bexar County Medical Society. Please support them with your patronage, thank you.



### SERVING THE TEXAS HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

Favorite Healthcare Staffing is proud to be the exclusive provider of staffing services for BCMS. In addition to traditional staffing solutions, Favorite offers a comprehensive range of staffing services to help members improve cost control, increase efficiency, and protect their revenue cycle.

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### CREATED AND ENDORSED BY THE TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The TMA Insurance Trust helps physicians, their families and their employees get the insurance coverage they need.

[Click-To find out what they can do for you](#)



## TEXAS MEDICAL LIABILITY TRUST

Texas Medical Liability Trust (TMLT) is a not-for-profit health care liability claim trust providing malpractice insurance products to the physicians of Texas. Currently, we protect more than 20,000 physicians in all specialties who practice in all areas of the state. TMLT is endorsed by the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, and the Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis county medical societies. TMLT has an A.M. Best Company rating of A (excellent).

[Click-To find out what they can do for you](#)



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### ABOUT YOUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS PROGRAM

*The Circle of Friends is composed of companies and organizations that donate and support the Bexar County Medical Society. Their donations fund events and helps us to provide service to you the physician member. In addition, their donations help keep the cost of your dues down. Let us show our appreciation by using the service and products from our Circle of Friends contributors at every opportunity.*

Please ask your practice manager to use the Physicians Purchasing Directory as a reference when services or products are needed.  
[Go to the On-line Directory](#)