



From the Editor

Changes of Note for the New Year

Coding updates are just the tip of the iceberg as we begin 2019.

This issue of *FPM* features our annual review of changes resulting from the new Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (see page 23). In addition to the usual spate of code changes and payment updates, the final rule for 2019 also described several changes designed to lessen the burden of documenting evaluation and management services, including these:

- For an established patient's history and exam, physicians may note what has changed since the last visit or pertinent items that

have not changed, rather than re-documenting a defined list of required elements,

- For new or established patients, physicians no longer must re-enter information in the medical record regarding the chief complaint and history (including the history of present illness) that ancillary staff or the patient has already entered.

More significant documentation changes were delayed to 2021, including further relaxing of documentation requirements and a blended payment rate for some office visits — developments we will be following closely.

The new year brings changes to *FPM* as well. This issue is Dr. Ken Adler's last as our medical

editor. His understanding of the challenges family physicians face and his insight into solutions have helped *FPM* to deliver the practical, actionable content that makes the journal unique. Ken was an *FPM* author and peer reviewer for many years before his tenure as medical editor began in 2013, and we look forward to continuing our association with him for years to come.

Recruitment is underway for our next medical editor, whom we hope to introduce in the next issue. **FPM**

Leigh Ann Backer

Leigh Ann Backer, Executive Editor
fpmedit@aafp.org



MEDICAL EDITOR

Kenneth G. Adler, MD, MMM

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Leigh Ann Backer

SENIOR EDITOR AND WEB CONTENT MANAGER

Brandi White

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

David Twiddy

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Samantha Moores

ART DIRECTOR

Christine Schneider

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Arnold E. Cuenca, DO, CAQSM, FAAFP,
Ladera Ranch, Calif.
Troy Fiesinger, MD, FAAFP, Houston, Texas
Sumana Reddy, MD, FAAFP, Salinas, Calif.
Peter C. Rippey, MD, Bluffton, S.C.
Sumi M. Sexton, MD, Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Cindy Hughes, CPC, CFPC, Kent J. Moore,
Betsy Nicoletti, MS, CPP, David Rebedew, MD

DIRECTOR OF JOURNAL MEDIA

Stephanie Hanaway

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Darren Sextro

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Marilyn Harvey

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING

John Payne

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING SALES

John Molluso

NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER

Mickey Cotter

ADVERTISING SALES OFFICE MANAGER

Stefanie Valenzano

ADVERTISING SERVICES SPECIALISTS

Frances Spitsnogle
Linda A. Porter

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER

Susi Cordill

SUBSCRIPTION STRATEGISTS

Alan Fagen
Rebecca Harp

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Bret Taylor

PRODUCTION GRAPHICS MANAGER

Stacey Herrmann

SENIOR GRAPHIC ASSOCIATE

Bryan Colley

GRAPHIC ASSOCIATE

Randy Knittel

DIGITAL PRODUCTION SPECIALIST

Evan Palmer

DATA MANAGEMENT & MARKET INSIGHTS MANAGER

Tiffany M. Long

DATA MANAGEMENT & MARKET INSIGHTS SPECIALIST

Melissa Lavenbarg

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Douglas E. Henley, MD, FAAFP

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

Clif Knight, MD, CPE, FAAFP