

**Healthcare Organizations:
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**[FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
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IN THIS UPDATE

**HEDGE FUNDS AND HOSPITAL ENDOWMENT INVESTING
[Understanding Alternative Strategies]**

This chapter examines the investment profession which has come a long way since the door-to-door stock salesmen of the 1920s sold a willing public on worthless stock certificates. The stock market crash of 1929 and ensuing Great Depression of the 1930s, and the Madoff incident of 2009, forever changed the way investment operations are run. A bewildering array of laws and regulations sprung up, all geared to protecting the individual investor from fraud. These laws also set out specific guidelines on what types of investment can be marketed to the general public – and allowed for the creation of a set of investment products specifically not marketed to the general public.

**For further information contact:
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DID YOU KNOW?

Medicare Physicians Fee Schedule

The New Year 2010 brought changes in the Medicare Physicians Fee Schedule. For many specialists, the most significant change is the elimination of consultation codes, 99241-99245 in the outpatient setting and 99251-99255 for inpatient care. Physicians can still provide consultations and bill for these services – using codes for routine new or established patient visits (99201-99205 and 99211-99215).

Nosocomial Infections Update

The nation's hospitals are still failing to protect patients from potentially fatal infections despite years of prevention campaigns. The Health and Human Services Department's 2009 quality report to Congress found "very little progress" on eliminating hospital-acquired infections and called for "urgent attention." As many as 98,000 people a year die from medical errors and preventable infections.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

Another SGR Reprieve - Good News for Hospital-Based Physicians

President Barack Obama signed legislation this month that temporarily held off a steep cut in physician Medicare payments and lengthens benefits under the COBRA program. The legislation extends until June 1 the current higher level of physician payment, and extended until May 1st federal assistance for Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act premiums. The legislation also effectively reversed an interpretation by the CMS in a rule it issued in December that made many hospital-based physicians ineligible for federal electronic health-record subsidy payments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The new law attempts to clarify that Congress wants physicians who work in hospitals and in outpatient settings to be eligible for subsidies to computerize their offices.

Source: Modern Physician [4/26/10]

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NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

- Policy: The US Patriot Act has been extended one year to March 1, 2011
- Sustainable Growth Rate: The Senate voted to delay, again, a 21 percent Medicare physician pay cut until October 1st, 2010.
- Regulations: CMS released instructions to contractors regarding technical and professional components for diagnostic tests subject to anti-markup rules first established in 2009. The new instructions took effect on March 15, 2010.
- Joint Commission: Approved revisions to Medical Staff Standard MS.01.01.01 [former MS.1.20] that addressed Medical Staff self-governance and accountability for the quality and safety of patient care.
- FTC: The “red-flag” rules were again delayed until June 1, 2010. But, a recent federal court decision could offer physicians even more relief from the Federal Trade Commission regulation requiring them to implement a formal identity theft prevention program or face penalties. The December 1, 2009, ruling by the US District Court, for the District of Columbia, blocked the commission from applying the “red flags” rule to lawyers. The decision prompted the American Medical Association [AMA] to petition the commission in January for a similar exclusion for physicians and other healthcare professionals. The FTC counts physician practices as creditors if they bill patients for past services or allow patients to set up payment plans. But, in a case brought by the American Bar Association, the court found that the FTC exceeded its authority in applying that interpretation to attorneys.
- Congressional Budget Office: The CBO says Obamacare will cost \$2.0 trillion in the bill’s real first decade (from 2014 to 2023) — and much more down-line.

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Contact the Editors and Contributors

In, *Healthcare Organizations [Journal of Financial Management Strategies]*, iMBA, Inc wants you to have a publication that meets your needs and covers material that you consider most important and interesting. Therefore, if you would like to see additional topics covered in this guide, feel free to send them to this email address: MarcinkoAdvisors@msn.com. Kindly include "Healthcare Organizations" in your subject line and as much information as possible in your request.

We will read each topic and consider all suggestions for material in future updates. Due to the volume of emails, we will not be able to acknowledge or respond to every one. But, we look forward to your suggestions and will make every reasonable request to accommodate them.

Thus, we hope you will find this publication an invaluable and practical resource for creating and maintaining financial and economic success for your own medical practice, clinic, hospital or healthcare organization.

And, be sure to follow us online, between quarterly updates, at our website and the *Medical Executive-Post*, blog forums.

Subscribe today ... Blog online ... Succeed tomorrow!

Fraternally,

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