



Physicians Committed
to Quality

monthly memo mvma ipa

An important announcement from Richard B. Toll, M.D., MVMA President

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Emergency CT and MRI Scans

In the December 2004 and February 2005 issues of our newsletter, we referenced issues with emergent CT and MRI scans. Physicians and administrators we spoke with were concerned that scans could not be scheduled at a radiology department or facility without first obtaining an authorization number. We were contacted by several radiology locations for a specific billing guideline under these circumstances.

Due to the implementation of the pre-certification exemption, and the desire to have your patients cared for in an emergency as quickly as possible, we have been working with MVP to determine how an emergent scan can be recognized by the claims system for payment. MVP's claims payment guidelines are that when a radiology code is billed with **modifier ET** (emergent services), the pre-authorization requirement will not apply, i.e. the claim will not be denied for "no preauthorization."

Annual Letter from the President

All IPA physicians should have received Dr. Toll's annual letter which includes information regarding the year 2004 withhold return. If you have not received this communication, please contact Sharlene Campbell at **(518) 388-2461**. The letter can also be found on our website, www.mvma.net, on the Announcements page.

Medication List Update

The enclosed MVMA patient Medication List is also available online at www.mvma.net. This form is part of our initiative to reduce medication errors. Please copy this form and encourage your patients to bring a current list to all their physician visits.