Health Plan Newsletter

Spring 2007

Health Plan Highlights

Care360™ ePrescribing Increases Patient Safety, Saves Time and Reduces Costs

Increased patient safety and convenience, improved practice efficiency and lower costs for payors and patients are some of the benefits from Care360™ ePrescribing, developed by MedPlus®, the health care information technology subsidiary of Quest Diagnostics.

Care360 ePrescribing presents lab and medication history in a longitudinal view, and even generates graphs of patient trends. It enables physicians at the point of care to view eligibility and tiered formulary and review patient medication history in context of lab results, and it provides drug safety alerts to enable more informed prescription drug decisions. Doctors can write and transmit prescriptions electronically – no need to write paper scripts – the prescription is sent to the patient’s choice of pharmacy accurately, with no risk of being misread or mistyped into the pharmacy system, minimizing the risk of adverse drug events. Refill requests are also easily automated.

“We have experienced a significant reduction in time spent on the phone and fax to order a prescription for a patient. We no longer need to fax paperwork to the pharmacies or receive calls from the pharmacy,” says Reinhardt Beel, of Cumberland Valley Endocrinology, Carlisle, PA. “We are saving time for the pharmacies as well. Everything is legible in the accurate dosage and there is no need for them to contact us for clarification.”

Medical practices are also better able to comply with health plan formularies, reducing costs for payors and patients. “Having formulary information specific to each patient’s medical plan is very time saving as well as saving the patient money,” ePre’ allows us to see what formulary drugs are available to switch to,” notes Tracy Carter, of Cardiology and Interventional Vascular Associates, Dallas, TX.

Care360 provides physicians with a comprehensive ePrescribing solution:

- Electronic script writing
- Access to patient lab and medication data in one longitudinal view
- Pharmacy look-up
- Drug allergy and drug-drug interactions alerts
- Formulary management
- Medication insurance eligibility
- Expanded medication history – even across providers outside of the practice
- Transaction and medication usage reports

When implementing Care360 and ePrescribing, physicians and their staff are supported by Quest Diagnostics national network of Professional Trainers and ePrescribing Account Specialists. Practices get the on-site training, and ongoing support that makes it easier for them to adopt the application and manage staff turnover.

For more information on the Care360 Physician Portal and ePrescribing, contact your MedPlus or Quest Diagnostics Account Executive at: 1-800-391-9223.

In The Spotlight

Blueprint for Wellness™ provides complete wellness solutions with national coverage

The Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness is an effective health risk identification solution and education tool available to employers, employees and their dependents. The program integrates the proactive power of health care screening tests with Health Risk Assessments (HRA) to provide insights that can lead employees to live healthier lifestyles and drive down their health care costs.

Each participant who completes the Blueprint for Wellness analysis receives a confidential, individualized Personal Wellness Report. This user-friendly report includes a snapshot of current health and individual risk factors, plus an explanation of the participant’s top three health improvement areas. Participants are encouraged to share the report with their primary care physician.

In The Spotlight continued
Participants are often made aware of health risks that would not have been revealed without these screening tests. Through the Blueprint for Wellness program, participants receive tools and education needed to act before more serious health problems occurred.

Blueprint for Wellness also provides the analysis and insight that enable employers to control health care costs. The Employer Wellness Report is a comprehensive, aggregate report that summarizes the results of the employee population while maintaining employee confidentiality. The report’s return-on-investment (ROI) data provides a meaningful financial forecast of excess health care costs due to modifiable health risk factors. Employers can use the ROI data to create effective intervention programs – such as smoking cessation or weight loss programs – or to measure the effectiveness of an existing program.

As the laboratory services provider that health plans have relied on for years, Quest Diagnostics has the national delivery system to accommodate your largest nationwide customers with preventative screenings for employees and dependents. We have more than 5,000 trained and experienced Blueprint for Wellness event professionals, 6,000 mobile phlebotomists and 2,000 patient service centers. Testing is conducted by our national network of 35 full-service laboratories and 140 rapid response labs. For total program administration, or to augment your offering, contact your Quest Diagnostics Account executive, or for more information on Blueprint for Wellness, call 1-800-654-7824.

Drug Use Hits New Low Among U.S. Workers in 2006

A continued decline in drug positivity for the amphetamine class of drugs among safety-sensitive workers, coupled with a decrease in positive marijuana drug test results among the general U.S. workforce, drove workplace drug use to a new low in 2006. These were the main findings of the annual Drug Testing Index® released by Quest Diagnostics on March 7, 2007, the nation’s leading provider of employment-related drug testing services.

Overall, the testing data indicated that drug use by employees and applicants fell to the lowest level since Quest Diagnostics began publishing the Drug Testing Index in 1988. Of all urine workplace drug tests performed by Quest Diagnostics during 2006 for the combined U.S. workforce, 3.8% had positive results, compared to 4.1% in 2005 and 13.6% in 1988.

The Drug Testing Index is released every six months as a service for government, media and industry, and is considered a benchmark for national trends.

Information on Substance Abuse Testing, the drug testing index; that includes data, charts, and detailed geographic maps can be found at: www.questdiagnostics.com/employersolutions

Upcoming Events

June 20 – 22, 2007
Institute 2007 – AHIP’s Annual Meeting
Wynn Hotel – Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV

September 16 – 19, 2007
9th Annual 2007 DMLF
Caesars Palace
Las Vegas, NV