Speech Therapy

Chief Business Office Purchased Care

Department of Program Integrity (DPI)

VA HEALTH CARE | Defining **EXCELLENCE** in the 21st Century

Objectives

- **Show an Increase in Speech Therapy Claims**

- **Identify the Prominent Codes**

- **Reinforce the Requirements for Speech Therapy**

- **Present Recent Fraud Schemes**

- **Provide Speech Therapy Fraud References**

Speech Therapy Increases
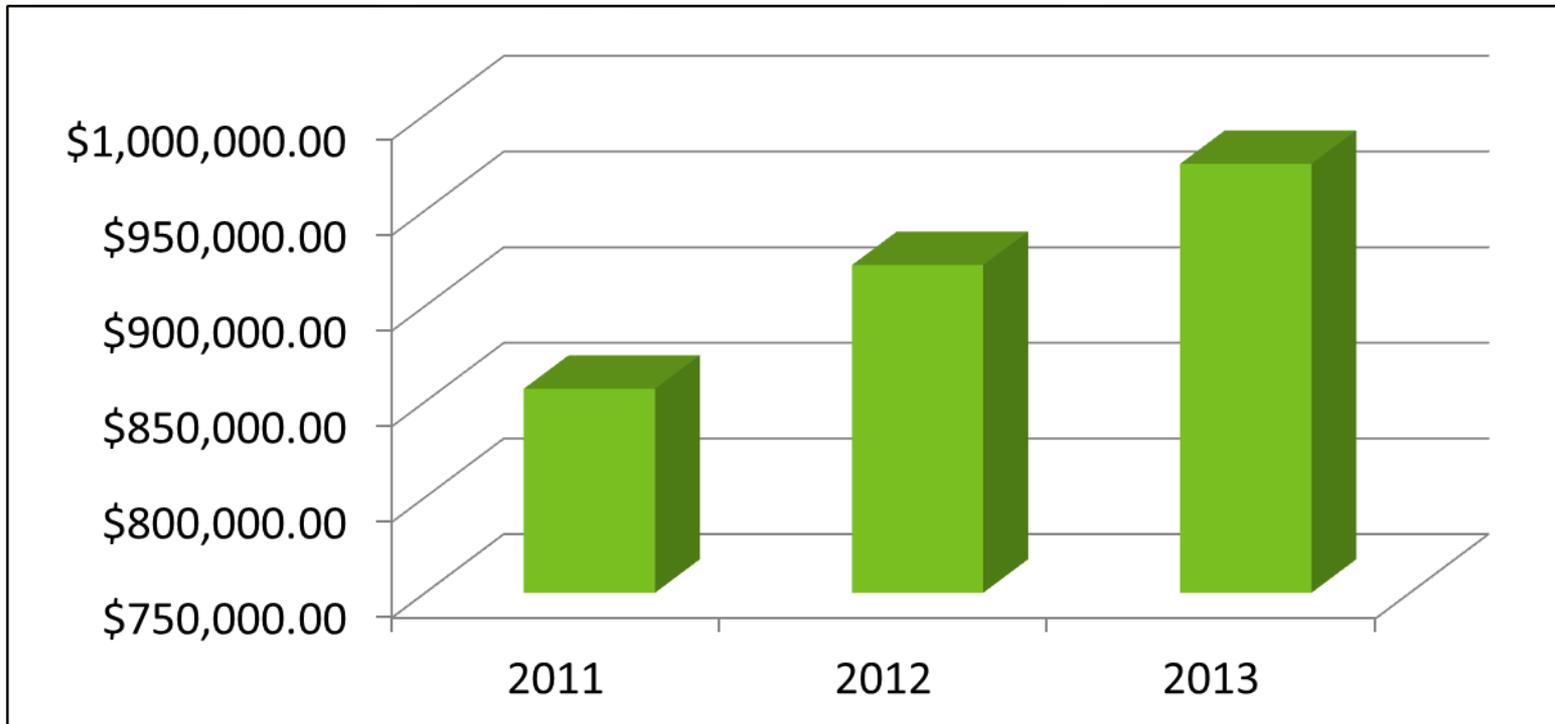
Steady increase of speech therapy claims since 2011

Speech Therapy Awareness

Codes most used:

- **31575 – Laryngoscopy**
- **74230 – Swallowing function**
- **76536 – Ultrasound, soft tissues of head and neck**
- **92507 – Treatment of speech disorder**
- **97535 – Self-care/home management training**

Speech Therapy Requirements

- **Be sure you have a preauthorization on file**
- **Check the dates of the authorization**
- **Check the number of authorized visits**
- **Check the diagnostic codes**

Speech Therapy Fraud Case #1

Florida County Speech Therapist given probation for Medicaid Fraud:

- **Betty McKenzie Smith, 53, between 2007 and 2009 defrauded the Medicaid Program by billing for services not provided**

- **She billed for over $800,000 for services where minimal services were rendered or not provided**

- **She plead guilty; received 5 years probation and fined $350,000 in restitution**

Speech Therapy Fraud Case #2

Orange County Speech Therapist arrested for Medicaid Fraud:

- **Tiffany Campbell, a Licensed Speech Therapist, falsified records to collect payment for services not provided**

- **During the summer of 2013 she billed Medicaid for over $8,000 for services that were not provided**

- **She faces up to 5 years in prison and a $10,000 fine**

Speech Therapy Fraud Case #3

Speech Therapist and Office Manager Charged with Fraud:

- **Rebecca Lee Rabon and Tiffany Nicole Thompson of Houston are charged in a 44 count indictment**

- **They were charged with billing TRICARE and BCBS for $3,784,642 for speech therapy and swallowing therapy services not provided**

- **Each face up to 10 years in federal prison for each count and up to $250,000 fine for conviction of these offenses**

References

- ## [Florence County speech therapist given probation for Medicaid Fraud](#)

  www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1009926

- ## [Orange County Speech Therapist Arrested for Medicaid Fraud](#)

  www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/pv/9F90A428413AC20785257C7800689CC4

- ## [Speech Therapist and Office manager Charged with Fraud](#)

  www.justice.gov/usao/txs/1News/Releases/2014%20January/140204%20-%20Rabon%20and%20Thompson.html

Conclusion

- **Covered Recent Increase in Speech Therapy Claims**

- **Helped Identify Prominent Codes**

- **Reinforced Requirements for Speech Therapy**

- **Presented Recent Fraud Schemes**

- **Provided Speech Fraud Therapy References**

References

Veterans Affairs manages several health care programs that reimburse private health care providers for caring for our Veterans and their eligible family members. Unfortunately these health care programs have a different statutory and regulatory authority, which creates diverse payment methodologies. The majority of VA health care programs utilize Medicare's payment methodologies or something very similar.

Therefore, providers and facilities that utilize Medicare's billing and coding guidelines will greatly minimize claim delays or rejections as a result of the Program Integrity Tools fraud and abuse review.

The following Medicare link is an excellent source of billing and coding guidance for all providers and facilities:

Medicare Claim Processing Guide
http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs-Items/CMS018912.html