



AMBULATORY PATIENT GROUP INFORMATION ON DOH WEBSITE

The NYS Department of Health (DOH) website now includes a link for information on the Ambulatory Patient Groups (APGs) reimbursement system. This website (http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/rates/apg/) contains information about APGs along with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). In addition, there is a link to 3M (the company that developed the grouper software) along with information on how hospitals can obtain the Definitions Manual for the 3.1v Grouper free of charge. The Definitions Manual contains information on how the Grouper was developed and explanations on some of the logic. Hospitals in New York State are able to order the manual for free (cost is \$400), while in this transition. We believe that Diagnostic & Treatment Centers (D&TCs) should also be able to obtain the manual free of charge. There is information on the website regarding how to place an order.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- ◆ *Ambulatory Patient Group Information on DOH Website*
- ◆ *OMRDD Commissioner Visits CP of NYS Affiliate*
- ◆ *CMS Announces Medicare Contractor Annual Update of ICD-9-CM*
- ◆ *Seeking Your Perspective*
- ◆ *RESNA Exam to be Offered at CP of NYS Annual Conference*
- ◆ *The U.S. Senate Designates thr Week of September 8th as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*

OMRDD COMMISSIONER VISITS CP OF NYS AFFILIATE

On July 15, Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), paid a visit to Prospect Child and Family Center in Queensbury. Prospect Executive Director Larrie Gouge and participants and staff from the Prospect Day Habilitation Program escorted Commissioner Ritter on a tour of the agency and gave her a first-hand look at their Day Habilitation facility. Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS) President & CEO Susan Constantino, and Executive Vice President Mike Alvaro and Larrie Gouge also had an opportunity to meet with Commissioner Ritter to discuss issues faced by Prospect Child and Family Center and other CP of NYS Affiliates



OMRDD Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter (center with arms resting on chairs), Larrie Gouge (standing, left), staff and participants in the Prospect Child and Family Center Day Habilitation Program pause to pose for a photo.

CMS ANNOUNCES MEDICARE CONTRACTOR ANNUAL UPDATE OF ICD-9-CM

On July 29, CMS issued a transmittal announcing its annual reminder to the Medicare contractors of the ICD-9-CM update. The transmittal contains the additions, deletions, and revisions to the ICD-9-CM. The effective date of the updated codes is October 1, 2008. To view the transmittal, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1566CP.pdf>. To view the MLN Matters article on the topic, go to Medicare Contractor Annual Update of the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6107/pdf>.

SEEKING YOUR PERSPECTIVE

CP of NYS will be producing a *Perspective* publication in time for our Annual Conference in late October. We are asking Affiliates for help compiling some of the content. This issue of *Perspectives* will feature stories about people with disabilities living successfully in their local communities in various living options, including At Home Residential Habilitation Services.

We would like photos and short stories about people with disabilities living successfully in your community. We know that each of our Affiliates has compelling stories about consumers and their families who have been working with staff in your agency. Photos of consumers involved in the community and interacting with friends and members of your staff in their homes would help us illustrate the importance of community living programs all across the state.

In order to have the publication printed in time for the Conference, we are asking that Affiliates send stories and photos to Al Shibley at the Affiliate Services Office in Albany. Materials may be sent by e-mail to ashibley@cpofnys.org, or by regular mail to CP of NYS, 90 State Street, Suite 929, Albany, NY 12207.

RESNA EXAM TO BE OFFERED AT CP OF NYS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The RESNA certification exam for Assistive Technology Practitioners/Suppliers will again be offered during the 2008 CP of NYS Annual Conference, scheduled for Monday, October 20 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. All application materials and instructions can be obtained on RESNA's website at www.resna.org, then click on certification program. The application deadline is September 12.

A helpful hint: we have heard that, of all the references listed in the RESNA application packet, the following book seems to be most helpful in preparing for the exam: *Fundamentals in Assistive Technology – 3rd Edition*, published by RESNA, 1700 North Moore Street, Suite 1540, Arlington, VA 22209-1903; 703-524-6686; www.resna.org.

Please note that due to the extensive application materials, we suggest that anyone interested begin the application process as soon as possible.

THE U.S. SENATE DESIGNATES THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH AS NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

On Monday evening, July 14th, Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE), joined by 10 original co-sponsors, introduced a Senate Resolution, that the Senate passed by unanimous consent, that formally recognizes the week of September 8, 2008 as DSP Recognition Week. To read the full text of the Senate Resolution, please see the following link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:sr613ats.txt.pdf.