FYI

AMA Claim Toolkit

The American Medical Association offers educational materials to help clinicians process claims more efficiently. The "Heal the Claims Process" toolkit includes resources to help doctors in preparing a claim, following it, and appealing it. The tools include template appeal letters and claim management checklists. There also is a physician claims process checkup resource. For more information, contact the AMA by visiting the Web site ama-assn.org/go/pmc.

Free Asthma Screening

The American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology is offering free asthma screenings for adults and children at more than 200 sites nationwide. Most screenings will take place in May. For a list of locations and dates, visit the National Asthma Screening Program at the Web site www.acaai.org/public/lifeQuality/nasp/index.htm.

Fact Sheets on Thyroid Disorders

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), part of the National Institutes of Health, has produced four new fact sheets for consumers and health care providers. The subjects of the four publications are hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, Graves' disease, and pregnancy and thyroid disease. More information about NIDDK and its programs is available at www.niddk.nih.gov.

Booklet for Pregnant Diabetic Women

A 44-page guide to pregnancy for women with preexisting diabetes is being offered by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. "For Women With Diabetes: Your Guide to Pregnancy" (DM-269) outlines a diabetes care plan, and includes forms for recording blood glucose levels, food intake, medication, and physical activity. A single copy is free; packages of 25 cost $10. To order, call 800-860-8747. For a PDF copy, visit the Web site http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm/pub/pregnancy.

Postmarket Drug Safety Information

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has created a Web page with a wide variety of safety information about prescription drugs for health care professionals and consumers. The page, www.fda.gov/cder/drugsafety.htm, includes links to information in these categories: drug labeling, professional labeling, and patient package inserts; drugs that have Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies; and press announcements and safety sheets with the latest risk information.

PRODUCTS

Guided Imaging of Pap Test Slides

The FocalPoint GS imaging system has received Food and Drug Administration premarket approval. This system enhances cervical cancer screening for cytology labs that use BD SurePath Pap test slides. Guided screening technology rapidly relocates the fields of view that the system has identified as the most likely to contain cells of interest. For more information, visit BD Diagnostics at www.bd.com or call 866-874-7284.

Prenatal Vitamins

Mission Pharmacal introduces CitraNatal Assure into its line of prescription prenatal vitamins. These vitamins include 300 mg of DHA in addition to vitamins C and E, the B vitamins, folic acid, carbonyl iron, and other key nutrients for pregnant women. The vitamins also contain calcium citrate, for calcium with less gas and bloating. For more information, contact Mission Pharmacal by visiting www.citranatal.com.

On-Site Messaging Software Release

The newest version of Enterprise 101 paging software allows users to create and send a custom priority, predefined, or emergency alert message to a defined group using a new alert button feature. This message can be delivered to on-site pagers, LED signs, wide area pagers, mobile phones, and PDAs in less than 2 seconds. The alert feature can be accessed on the desktop of any network computer. For more information, contact InterPage L.P. by visiting www.iplp.com or calling 800-992-1000.

Diagnostic Ultrasound System

The ACCUVIX V20 ultrasound scanner provides high-quality images through a 17-inch, 1280-by-1024 high-resolution flat-panel display. Its features include a flexible articulating arm, quadrant image, and pointer function. Other technological advances include a speckle reduction filter and full-spectrum imaging. For more information, visit Medison USA at www.medisonusa.com.