



Elevating EMS agencies
since 2011

2022 Quarter 1 Newsletter

Pintler Billing Happenings

After being delayed for two years the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection project is finally underway. If you are an agency that has been chosen for reporting in the first two years, you have probably already heard from Medicare, and you have definitely already heard from our office. Now is a good time to make sure you are tracking the required information so that your reporting will be as straight forward as possible. There is a good reporting instrument available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AmbulanceFeeSchedule/Ground-Ambulance-Services-Data-Collection-System>. Let us know if you have any questions or would like to talk over this more.



Abby Davis

Welcome & Congratulations!

Pintler Billing Services is excited to introduce Abby Davis, our newest team member. Abby is most likely the voice you will hear when you call our office and is doing a great job as the Administrative/Billing Assistant for our office.

Congratulations to Cerise Greene, who has earned her Certified Ambulance Coder certification in January and is our newest biller! She is doing a great job and has already made a big impact on our team.



Cerise Greene

This spring will hopefully bring advances towards obtaining supplemental payments for EMS providers who transport Medicaid patients. We are monitoring the progress carefully and will be keeping you posted as there are developments in this area. "Treatment in place" reimbursement and supplemental payments using cost settlement methods are a couple of the exciting ideas being pursued at a State level. At the risk of counting our chickens before they are hatched, a debt of gratitude is owed to the EMS professionals and leaders around Montana who have been working on these causes for years now.

EMS SPOTLIGHT: MEL HOLTZ

Agency: Frenchtown Rural Fire District

Years of Service: 18

Certification/Education: Paramedic, Lead Instructor
Business Administration degree from the University of Montana



Brief Background: I grew up in Billings and as a child, my brother and I spent summers in Iowa with our grandparents. I was introduced to EMS early, where my grandfather was an "Ambulance Driver" for a small town in Iowa. In rural Iowa, everyone pitched in to help their community. He would leave at all hours to respond to calls and growing up I always admired him. In high school, I joined an Explorer program with Yellowstone County Search and Rescue. I learned to scuba dive and was part of the dive team, recovering vehicles and conducting rescue missions while attending high school during the day. I attended the University of Montana in 1998, while in college I joined the American Red Cross Disaster Services Team as well as the East Missoula Volunteer Fire Department where I continued helping my community. I have been fortunate to serve on several National Red Cross assignments, including Tropical Storm Allison and the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. In 2012, I joined Frenchtown Fire and currently serve as the EMS Coordinator. In addition to coordinating EMS, I also serve on a Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team and have been on several large-scale wildfires as a Public Information Officer as well as work in the logistics function. This experience has taken me to all parts of Montana as well as Alaska, Idaho, and California, assisting with the coordination of relief efforts. I met my wife at the University of Montana and have a 15 year old who just obtained his driver's license a few weeks ago!

Highlight or favorite aspect of working in EMS: One of my favorite aspects in EMS has been through our apprentice-resident Firefighter/EMT program at Frenchtown Fire. Through this program, I work with groups of 18-22 year olds over a two year period and help shape their careers at a young age. Many of these kids have excelled in EMS and most have gone on to continue their careers in the medical field. One former resident is a Firefighter/Paramedic in Port Angeles, Washington and is getting married soon and starting his family while another former resident is completing his residency requirements to become a Doctor and is currently working at a hospital in New York City. 10 years later I still hear from several of them and follow up on life's successes. In addition to helping our patients during a time of need, it's been working with these young adults jumpstarting their careers which I find most rewarding!

COMPLIANCE CORNER BY JODI PAINE, CACO

CMS requires providers to sign medical documentation attesting to the care patients received while in the care of the ambulance crew. These signatures can be handwritten or electronic. Maintaining a signature log helps to identify the provider who signed a patient care report in the case of a records request where the signature(s) of the crew members are not legible. A signature log is a list of all crew members for the ambulance service along with a corresponding handwritten signature. We also encourage ambulance providers to have the crew members include their initials and credentials (for example: EMT with endorsements, paramedic, etc.), as well as the start date that the crew member began working with the ambulance service and the end date of their association with the service if they are no longer a crew member of the ambulance provider. This is a document that will continuously be updated as staffing changes and should be kept current to avoid delays and even denials in payment. Pintler Billing can provide you with a template for your signature log if you do not currently have one in place. If you have questions about how to create or maintain a signature log for your service, reach out to Jodi and she will be happy to assist you.



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*"Save one life, you're a hero.
Save multiple lives, you're an EMT."*



Contact Us

Pintler Billing Services

PO Box 2458

Eureka, MT 59917

866-340-2505

www.pintlerbillingservices.com