



December 4, 2009

Membership Bulletin

Employer responds to CEU concerns

Health Care Benefit Unit achieves extensions for temporary employees to address payment queue and ongoing CMS-related payment problems

Earlier this month *Impact* ran a story predicting epic failure if the temporary employees working in the Health Care Benefit Unit were laid-off on December 31, 2009. As a result of the CEU's many concerns relating to payment issues, the employer recently announced plans to retain these employees until April 2010.

"We are very pleased management decided to retain these valuable employees. The payment queue is still around 26,000 and the problems reported in *Impact* remain. Management intends to release a CMS update in February so we will wait and see if that improves things," said Sandra Wright, CEU President.

The CEU remains concerned about the number of complaints it receives from its members concerning CMS. "We're told some managers are asking people to "fudge" information. We also remain concerned about the actual number of people working in various classifications, so we've asked for a detailed report about the number of positions that are supposed to be in place. We will compare that to the number of people actually working. If there's a shortfall or if CMS keeps creating work, then management needs to hire more people," noted Wright.

While the extension of the temporary employees in Health Care Benefits Unit is an important step towards supporting all employees working within CMS, it is only one step in the many, many steps still remaining. The CEU is prepared to work with management to identify others so concrete measures can be taken to give employees the tools they need to get the job done.

The CEU executive will be discussing CMS and its ongoing impact on CEU members during the December Planning session. If you have a concern or suggestion about what the employer needs to do, please contact one of the executive members.

