Personal Collections Best Practices

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Goals

- 1. Learn how the whole office can capitalize on opportunities
- 2. Identify tools to assist on buy in from the practice
- 3. Get everyone on the same page and stick to it





The process used prior to when a patient comes in will impact the quality of your claims, increase TOS payments, and help reduce the amount of collections needed.

In short the Front End functions drive the revenue cycle.





The Financial Policy

- Develop a financial policy to share with parents
- Develop guides to educate patients about guarantor responsibilities and personal balances
- Develop internal guidelines and policies to empower your staff on when to say yes, and how to say no
- Seriously consider promoting an Auto-Pay policy where your office keeps credit cards on file and making this part of your financial policy





Personal Collections: Make Collecting Easy

Define your process and track it

- Share and update your external financial policy with families at least once a year
- Track pain points between staff and how you use your internal policies, these should also be reviewed and agreed upon yearly
- Are economic hardships a part of your internal policy? Have paperwork a family can sign to track special circumstances
- Stick to it!!! If you do not get buy in from all staff then families won't be confident they are all getting the same financial treatment.





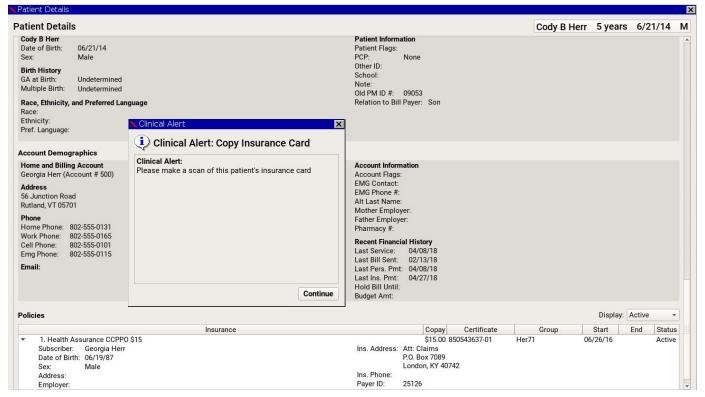
When Does the Collection Process Start?

- Scheduling: verify demographics, review billing flags, check current balances, ask for assistance from your billing staff
- Appointment Verification: are demographics still current? Remind families of past due balances and expected copays, is your insurance card up to date?
- Billing Department Prep: are you prepared to have front office staff transfer families to you? How much do you handle before sending them back to the scheduler?





Scheduling







Appointment Verification

Points to make during appointment verification

- Verify date, time, and visit reason
- Remind patient of expected copays, outstanding balances, and insurance cards
- Not all staff is comfortable discussing financial materials on the phone, having a script is ok, deferring the phone call to billing is ok. What's best for YOU should be the policy

Accurate review of the above improves

• Collection time, bad address returns, and reminder call success rates





Personal Collections: Pre-Visit Scheduling

Patient Det	tails							Cody B Herr	5 years	6/21/14	
Account Bala Georgia Herr	ances (Account # 500)										
Aging	0-29 days	30-59 days	60-89 days	90-119 days	120+ days	Credit				Total Baland	се
Personal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	496.00	0.00				496.0	00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.0	00
Medicaid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.0	00
Cody Herr (PC	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	ng Personal Ba	alances					Elizabeth Mary Casey,		oski Pediatri	
	Description							nent/Adj Insurance Due M	edicaid Due		
	OV Expanded For Ins Pmt - Health Ins Adj - Health	Assurance CC					56.00	0.00 32.44 8.56		15.0)0
							7.00	0.00		0.0	00
11/17/17 11/02/17 11/17/17 11/17/17	Hemocult Ins Pmt - Health Ins Adj - Health Personal Check	Assurance CCI	PPO \$15					3.32 3.68			





Set Expectations

The best time to collect is face to face

What is due at TOS?

- Copays
- Deductibles
- Current and accurate policy and demographic data
- Auto-Pay options and paperwork
- Self-Pay options and explanation / estimate sheets (laminated and available)





Collect at Time of Service

- Expecting Vs. Collecting
- Trust staff but verify compliance
- Expectations are for everyone
- Incentivize your staff, find value, and set goals
- Track progress





Copay Collection Ratio

Session 1	3		
opay Collecti	on Ratio	pcc 07/01/2	019 14:35:09
			Copay
Transaction			Collection
Date	Copay	Copay Paid	Ratio
01/01/18	\$30.00	\$26.13	87.10%
01/02/18	\$50.00	\$30.00	60.00%
01/03/18	\$25.00	\$25.00	100.00%
01/04/18	\$195.00	\$185.00	94.87%
01/05/18	\$205.00	\$190.00	92.68%
01/06/18	\$458.50	\$458.50	100.00%
91/97/18	\$115.00	\$110.00	95.65%
01/08/18	\$245.00	\$235.00	95.92%
		\$35.00	
		\$315.00	
91/12/18	\$355.00		
91/12/10			





Collect at Time of Service

- Use what you know
- Morning huddles are important for front staff, not just clinical
- Be accountable for all expected collections
- Integrate as an end of work day task





Collection Worksheet

ate		.ce: Elizabeth Mary Patient Name						Charges Tot	al Owed Total	Collecte
7/19/19	9:30am	Flintstone, Dino	\$	30.89	1		ı	ı	1	
7/19/19	10:00am	Flintstone, Pebb	\$	30.89	ľ	 	l		Ι	
7/19/19	10:15am	Simpson, Bart	\$	30.89		 	l	Ι	l	
7/19/19	11:30am	Baker, Alisa M.	\$	56.00		 	I		l	
7/19/19	1:00pm	Herr, Cody B	\$	496.00	ľ		I	I	l	
7/19/19	1:30pm	Herr, Jane	\$	496.00	ľ	 	ı	Ι	l	
7/19/19	2:15pm	Harvey Sr., Rica	\$	36.73			l		ı	
7/19/19	3:30pm	Blose, Kristen L	\$	149.00			1		1	
7/19/19	4:30pm	Kienzle P.C, Ash	s	426.00			1	1	1	





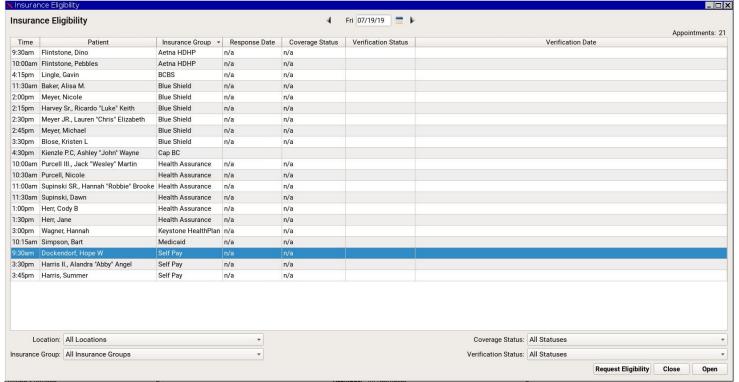
Insurance Eligibility

- Use notes for front desk to see during checkin
- Verify insurance card is up to date
- Have an estimate worksheet for self-pay available at front desk





Personal Collections: The Front Desk Eligibility







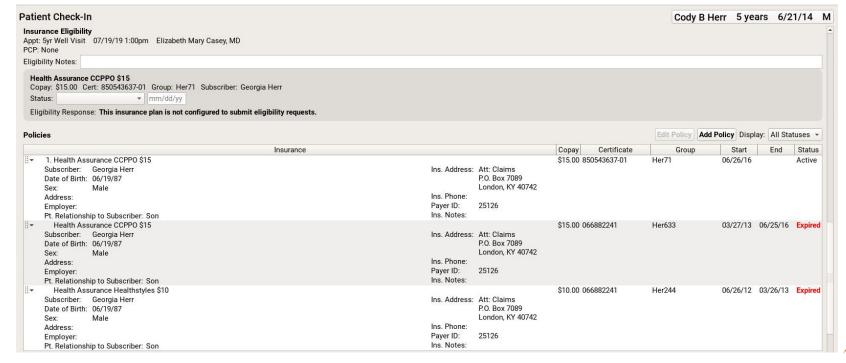
Insurance at Checkin

- New card? Scan the front and back, both can be important
- Have accurate policy details
- New calendar year? Ask "Did you receive a new insurance card?"





Policies





Multitasking Fallacy

- "Switchtasking" decreases productivity
- Sometimes more than double the effort
- Quality decreases
- Stress of staff increases





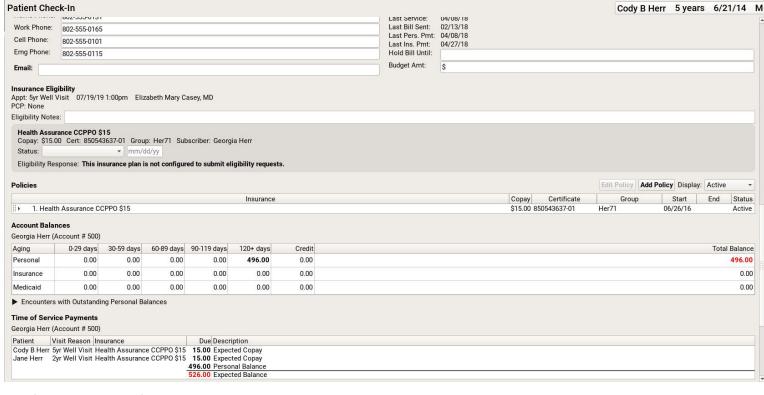
Checkin

- Front desk can answer a family's questions
- Details are available on past due personal balances
- TOS payments and receipts are available in checkin
- Be available to answer questions or have billing support you





Checkin





Pediatric EHR Solutions

Helpful is Important

- Decide who answers detailed questions and stick to it!!!
- Be available!





Self Pay Configuration

- Set up a self pay policy configuration to include TOS discounts
- Have an explanation sheet and range of discounted charges available for discussion with non-insured patients
- Discuss the pros of paying at time of service and receiving a discount





- The Patient Portal
- "Auto-Pay"
- ebills Vs. bills
- Cycle billing
- Billing messages
- Find bills sent in the past



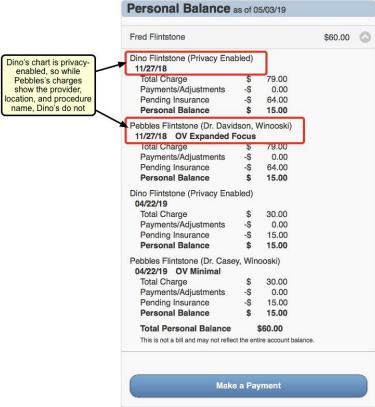


Make Payments Easy

- The Patient Portal
 - 1. See current balances in the patient portal
 - 2. Display all charges while retaining privacy









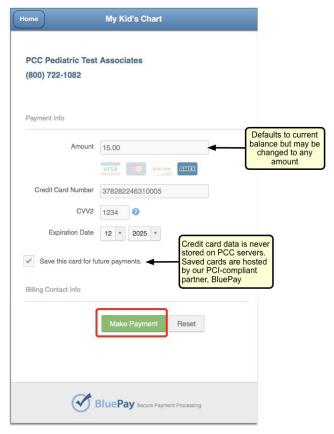


Make Payments Easy

- Patient Portal Payments
 - 1. Variety of payment types available
 - 2. Save multiple cards; credit, debit, HSA, any that use standard CC processing
 - 3. Security: You do not store the credit cards on your PCC server. Due to our partnership with Payments Pro's they store all credit card information in a PCI compliant environment for you.











Personal Collections: Automatic Balance Collection

Make Payments Easy

- Promote online bill pay and auto-payment options
- If patients can pay via your website then highlight this on personal bills
- If you keep credit cards on file then promote this as an auto-payment option
- Remove automatic bills in favor of automatic balance collection
- Have a 7 day letter for credit cards on file collection (Auto-Pay)

https://kidspluspgh.com/payments/kids-autopay/





Personal Collections: Budget Plans

Setting up a Budget Plan

- Create a form letter explaining their responsibilities
- Update budget field in the family editor
- Give the account a flag so you can easily review the accounts on a payment plan and verify they are paying
- Have a set internal policy on the boundaries of a budget plan.
- Have the entire practice know and review the internal financial policy criteria and revisit it yearly.





Personal Collections: Budget Plans

Setting up a Budget Plan

Add budget amount and it appears on personal bills as the amount due field

Patient Chec	k-In			Cody B Herr 5 years 6/21/14 M
Account Demo	graphics			
Home and Billin	ing Account	Reassign Account	Account Information	
Georgia Herr (A			Account Flags:	V
First Name: Ge			EMG Contact:	
Last Name: H	err		EMG Phone #:	
Address			Alt Last Name:	
56 Junction Ro	pad		Mother Employer:	
address 2			Father Employer:	
Rutland	VT	▼ 05701	Pharmacy #:	
Phone			Recent Financial History	
Home Phone:	802-555-0131		Last Service: 04/08/18	
Work Phone:	802-555-0165		Last Bill Sent: 02/13/18	
Cell Phone:	802-555-0101		Last Ins. Pmt: 04/08/18	
Emg Phone:	802-555-0115		Hold Bill Until: 10/27/19	
Email:			Budget Amt: \$50.00	





Personal Collections: Budget Plans

Setting up a Budget Plan

Have personal messages, office messages, and payment websites go out on your bill



Raymond DeFrank Mhs Box 046 Starksboro, VT 05487 Send Payment To: PCC Pediatric Test Associates 20 Winooski Falls Way Suite 7 Winooski, VT 05404-2228 (800) 722-1082





Ebills

- Looks more professional
- Submit electronically
- 76¢ per bill and 19¢ for each additional page. (This includes postage)

Vs. Bills

- Plain printing, nothing fancy
- Print in your office
- Folding, stuffing, stamping and time costs
- More control
- Consider using colored paper for delinquent bills





Billing Cycle

- Send out bills weekly instead of monthly
- Personal bills come in all month and not all at once
- Set cycles to 28 days and never print a duplicate bill on off weeks
- Breaking up the bills gives billers more time for other tasks





Billing Messages (billmsg)

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Practice Management
    Session 1 🖾
     Please choose which billing message you would like to work with:
     A) The default message (used when one of the others does not exist)
     1) The Normal Bills message
     2) The Overdue 30 Day Bills message
     3) The Overdue 60 Day Bills message
     4) The Overdue 90 Day Bills message
     5) The Overdue 120 Day Bills message
```





Partner Cycle Billing

- Set your cycle to 28 days
- Run bills weekly
- SRS support Claims never submitted (Personal only)
- Auto-Flagging Have letters flag accounts that receive them
- When does an account get a bill?





Personal Collections: Prioritize Balance Follow Up

Two Meanings of Prioritize

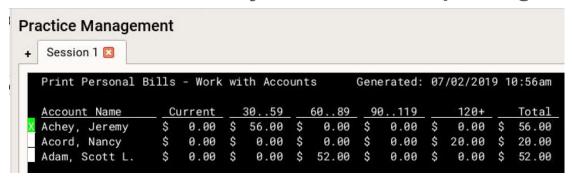
- 1. Prioritize your accounts
- Put accounts in the order you want to resolve them
- Sort by amount, age of bill, by flag, or a combination of choices
- Have explanation letters based on flag like COB denials
- 2. Prioritize based on your internal policies!



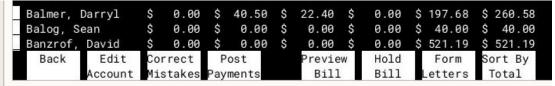


Personal Collections: Bills Program

Work with accounts to review your bills before printing or submitting



Function keys allow for a variety of updates before mass printing bills







Personal Collections: Bills Log

Billlog (F8 in bills) allows research of previously sent bills

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Practice Management

+ Session 1 ☑

Bill Log - Bill Batch Listing

Date Who Date Range Zip Range Alphabet Range Bill Agings

Mo6/01/18 pcc 01/01/80-06/01/18 00000-99999 a-z 0,30,60,90,120
```

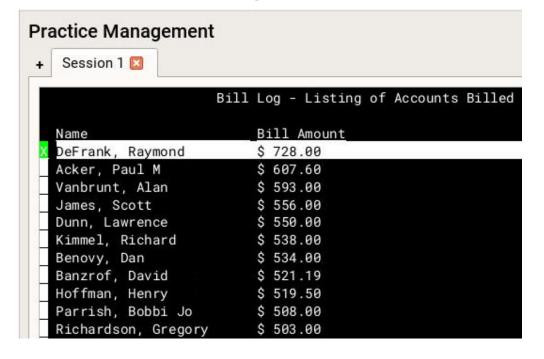




Personal Collections: Bills Log

- Who received a bill
- Includes bill amount
- View actual bill sent (F1)
- Sort by name or amount

Accounts billed lets you see







Personal Collections: Bills Log

Accounts not billed lets you see

- Who did not receive a bill
- Why they did not get a bill
- Searchable accounts by name

```
Practice Management
    Session 1 [3]
 WILSON, FDB
                                                             is not billable.
                                       Total bal $
                                                      0.00
                          (#4052)
 Wilt, Peter
                           #504)
                                       Total bal $
                                                      0.00
                                                             is not billable.
 Wingard, Robert
                                    Personal bal $
                                                             below cutoff $
                          (#1385)
                                                      0.00
                                                                              0.00.
                                       Total bal $
                                                             is not billable.
 Winsett, Don
                          (#456)
                                                      0.00
 Wise, Eric
                          (#171)
                                    Personal bal $
                                                     20.00CR below cutoff $
                                                                              0.00.
```

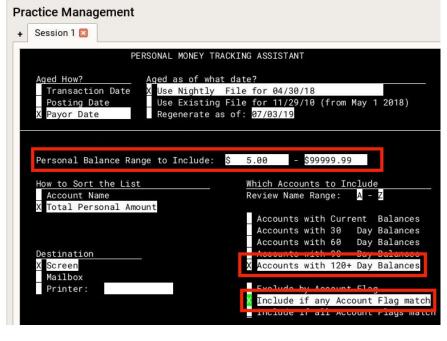




Personal Collections: Persview

When You Need to Bill One Account at a Time

- Use your bills cutoff balance
- Focus on one aged account at a time
- Include / Exclude by specific flag







Personal Collections: Persview

Working with *INDIVIDUAL* accounts

- Many function keys help you review each account
- Work with all lets you run commands for all accounts listed

0 . 1 .										
Session 1 🛛										
		WORKTN	G W	ITH *IN	DTV	DUAL *	ACCC	DUNTS		
		II O I I I I I								
Name	Cı	ırrent		3059	_ (089	96	3119	120+	Tota
Name DeFrank, Raymond	<u>Cı</u> \$	urrent 0.00		3059 362.00	\$	0.00	<u>96</u>	0.00	\$ 120+ 366.00	\$
				362.00			1000		THE PARTY NAMED IN	Tota: 728.00

Main	Edit Account	R			Dayshe	et	Form	T	Print One Bill	Work
	Dawn&Bob									
Mccormic	k, Tom	\$	0.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00	\$	381.00	\$ 391.00
Keefer,	Paul S	\$	25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00	\$	341.00	\$ 391.00



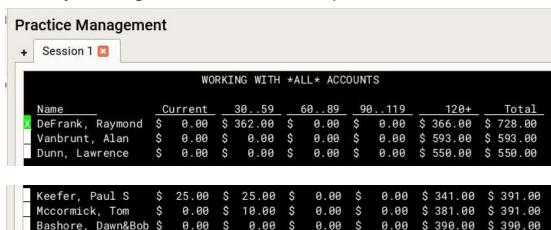


Personal Collections: Persview

Working with *ALL* accounts

- Print a bill for every account on the list
- Use form letters to automatically add flags to each account and print a letter

Main Menu







Print

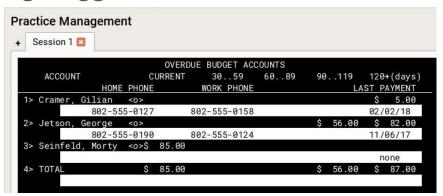
See

Totals

Personal Collections: Special Accounts Editor (cfs)

Reviewing Flagged Accounts

- Print form letters easily
- Jump in correct mistakes as needed
- Access collection reports
- Update demographics
- Last payment include copays!









Personal Collections: Notify

Notify Allows You to Send Overdue Personal Account Balance Notifications

• "Hello this is [Pediatric Practice] calling. Our records indicate that your account is more than [60] days overdue. Please call our office at [800-722-1082] to arrange payment today. Thank you."





Collection Referrals

- Revisit your internal policy for massively overdue accounts
- Do you write off balance under a certain amount?
- What flags do you generate?
- Do you refer an account to a collection agency?
- What is your pre-collection policy?
- Do you have an existing agency?
- Do you dismiss a family for delinquency?





To refer, or not to refer?

- Define delinquency thresholds in internal and external policies
- Do you send to collections for nonpayment alone?
- Does lack of contact carry the same penalties?
- Do you have a budget plan option? What are the upper limits?





Collections

When sending an account to a collection agency you have two options

- 1. Adjust off charges
- 2. Pend charges to agency

Regardless of the option you choose

- Print charge information for collection agency
- Have a custom report to run with collection details





Adjusting Off Charges to Collections

Run Post Personal Payments (pam)

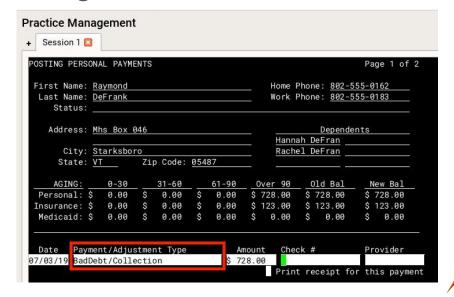
- Find Account
- Post bad debt / collection adjustment and link to delinquent charges
- Do you post an additional collection fee? Make this part of your financial policies, both internal and external.
- Add collection flag to account
- Update Account notes





Adjusting Off Charges to Collections

- Post Adjustment
- Link adjustment to delinquent charges
- Add collection flag and account note





Collection Agency Follow Up

When you receive a payment from the collection agency do one of the following

- Delete the bad debt adjustment and post the payment using a collections payment type
- Post a "collection income" adjustment in the refund program then post a collection payment against it.

Did the family pay the office directly? Make sure to contact the collection agency.





Write Offs

When you are not referring to a collection agency

- Write off all balances beyond reason
- Flag the accounts
- Review flagged accounts annually when reviewing your internal financial policy





Personal Collections: Reporting

Smart Report Suite (srs)

- Billing & Collection Reports (Category)
- Accounts with Credit Balances
- Collection Worksheet for Appointments
- Copay Collection Ratio
- Insurance Eligibility
- Insurance Eligibility for Same Day Appointments
- Claims Never Submitted (Personal & Self Pay plans only)





Personal Collections: Review

Personal Collections Tasks

- Send personal bills
- Post payments
- Work personal A/R
- Work with collections
- Run collection reports





Personal Collections:Wrap Up

Take a minute to identify from this course at least ONE To Do item you'll commit to completing when you return to your office





Personal Collections: Takeaways

Today you learned:

1.

2.

3



