

# PIMSY mental health EHR Newsletter – Jan 2013 – What We Can Learn From Sandy Hook

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## HOT TOPICS >> Paperless in 2013 ~ Medicare Compliance Check ~ G Codes for OT, PT & SLP 1/9/13

### Are EMRs Required for Mental Health!?

While there are plenty of reasons to make the switch from paper records to an EMR, some practices are perfectly happy with their current procedures and will only switch to electronic records if it becomes mandatory. We are frequently asked "Are EMRs required for mental health? Will I be penalized for not using an EMR?"

We went right to the source, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and asked them this very question. The answer depends on whether or not you're a Medicare eligible professional: "Medicare eligible professionals who are not meaningful users of Certified EHR Technology will be subject to a payment adjustment beginning January 1, 2015...

...eligible professionals that can only participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program are not subject to payment adjustments." ([click here](#) to read more...)



### Sandy Hook Shootings and Mental Health

For those of us in the mental & behavioral health industries, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings are more than just a horrific tragedy. They are a wake up call to the nation about the importance of getting mental health care to those who need it and raise a host of questions about current insurance coverage, laws and policies. "It's easy to talk about guns. But it's time to talk about mental illness."

Parents of troubled, volatile children are encouraged to have their kids charged with a crime in order to create a paper trail: "it seems like the United States is using prison as the solution of choice for mentally ill people." ([continued...](#))



### CONTACT US

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### Help! My Billing Codes Have Changed!

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the CPT billing codes that affect mental & behavioral health were changed, and the old codes can no longer be used. If you missed the warnings about this transition and didn't have the new codes in place, you'll want to make the switch as soon as possible. There are lots of resources available, but the most important guide to follow is the AMA 2013 CPT® code book ([click here](#) to purchase), as this is the definitive guide to ensure compliance.

As we recently found out, Medicare audits can be failed if the bill code description does not match the actual code, so it's imperative not only use the mandatory new codes, but also ensure all bill code information is accurate and in compliance. ([click here](#) for more...)

