

THE CURRENT

WILLIAMSBURG • CLINTON HILL • BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

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The Current for People Without Prescription Drug Coverage

It is estimated today that more than 35 million Americans are still lacking health insurance. This lack affects those of various ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds alike. The reasons are many. For instance, many employers no longer offer health insurance. Some lose prescription coverage when they lose their job, and others either seem to lack eligibility for many programs or can simply not afford the steep costs.

Furthermore, finding help and/or making the right choices can be difficult in today's maze of a health system.

Therefore, the UJO is very happy to introduce Pfizer and their **Helpful Answers Program**, which may help many in need of prescription drug coverage.

What is Pfizer Helpful Answers?

Pfizer is a renowned pharmaceutical company. In addition to creating

pharmacy medications the company has been helping people without prescription drug coverage for more than 20 years.

In response to the difficulty that so many without prescription coverage face the program, **Pfizer Helpful Answers**, was created. This is a family of patient prescription assistance programs that can help many without prescription coverage save on many Pfizer medicines, no matter what their age or

We are very pleased with the ongoing social services that the UJO is currently providing for the community at large. A major part of our vision is to continually strive not only to improve our services but to also bring in more services that the community may benefit from.

President's Corner

While there are many areas that we are focusing on, we have turned our immediate attention and efforts to the federal 'No Child Left Behind' (NCLB) program which was designed to ensure that all children receive a comprehensive and high standard of education. Our focus regarding NCLB, in particular, is Title One, which provides funding for special services for children in the public educational system. We are pushing for and doing our utmost to ensure that funding also be awarded for our non-public school children in need of these services. Over the course of the last few months we have been working with the Deputy Mayor, the top echelon of the City Department of Education and members of the City Council to guarantee that our children will also benefit from this very advantageous educational program.

Again, we want to thank you for all your comments regarding the content and quality of our newsletters. Please continue to respond and be assured that we will do our best to keep you abreast on current issues relevant to our community.

Rabbi David Niederman

income. People with limited incomes may even qualify to get their Pfizer medicines for free.

The programs provide help through participating doctors offices, community health centers hospitals and retail pharmacies.

What are the Programs?

There are four Pfizer programs that serve to help those in need.

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The Current on the Proposal for New Regulations in Child Care

In an effort to strengthen all aspects of child care in NYC, the **NYC Department of Health** has proposed several revisions to Article 47 of the Health Code, which regulates child care in NYC.

Proposed is a broad range of new changes which would establish new requirements in child care services. To list some are:

- Those New credentialing requirements for directors and teachers
- increased teacher/student ratios
- 500 additional child care services to secure City permits,
- the conducting of criminal and child abuse background checks on staff members
- new structural requirements for indoor/outdoor programs.

The Conflict

A conflict arises for religious nursery and preschools in trying to meet the new proposed regulations. The revisions to Article 47 would require that religious nursery and

preschools share identical requirements with non-religious schools. Technically, such schools would be required to obtain City permits from the Health Department.

For the past 25 years most religious

and all health and safety recommendations, it is also the case that if forced to comply with all aspects of the proposed revisions, many of these schools would become financially overburdened and likely be forced to shut

the three fold cost increases necessary to meet some of the proposed revisions. An absence of these schools would be an overburden to child care at home. In the worst case, a loss of services from a reputable vendor could result in the cropping up of inappropriate and unregulated private child care services. In addition, the new educational requirements for directors and teachers would, in the opinion of many, interfere with the mission of most religious schools.

According to our Councilman **David Yassky**, who took a lead on this issue, "Religious schools are a cornerstone of faith

communities and the government must take extraordinary care in seeking to regulate them. These proposed regulations violate the autonomy of religious schools."

Community Leaders Advocate for Schools

The revisions on Article 47 are not final and are still open to public comment. Amongst the advocates, **Rabbi David Niederman** of the UJO and colleagues met personally with Dr. Friedman and his top staff to discuss and negotiate the proposed revisions.

In a recent meeting positive strides were made. It was agreed upon that the DOHMH would

- not apply curriculum related requirements including

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schools have relied on the '**No Permit Required**' (NPR) status. While it is clear that our religious schools embrace any

down. Although many of the new requirements are reasonable, neither schools nor parents would be able to afford

Prescription Drug Coverage

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Connection to Care

This is Pfizer's longest running patient assistance program, providing help for over 20 years. It offers free Pfizer medicines to eligible patients through their doctor's office.

Patient Eligibility

- No prescription coverage

Sharing the Care

This program offers free Pfizer medicines through qualified federally funded community health centers. This program was developed in 199 in partnership with the National Association of Community Health Centers and the National Governors Association. More than 400 communi-

ty health centers participate nationwide.

Patient Eligibility

- No prescription coverage
- Household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level adjusted for family size
- Registered patient of participating health center.

Pfizer Hospital Partnership Program

This program offers free Pfizer medicines

through qualifying hospitals. More than 40 hospitals across the country participate in the program

Patient Eligibility

- No prescription coverage
- Household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size
- Registered patient of participating hospital

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The UJO is currently recruiting

women for a new medical billing and coding course to begin this summer. A minimum of ten registered students is required for the course to commence. Classes will meet twice a week

New Medical Billing Course for Women

two of the fastest growing areas in the health care industry today due to technology and vast changes within medical

please contact Hindy Kohn at 718-643-9700 ext.22

into the practice's management system, processing the bills to the insurance companies the integrity and quality of the information and the running of management reports.

ly with patient medical records. Specific codes have been assigned to all illnesses, injuries and treatments. This practice helps prevent misleading notes or diagnosis because the medical codes in use are considered accurate. Medical coders are required to have a vast knowledge of every medical code as well as anatomy and general disease treatment. The medical coder's job is one that

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Medical Billing and Coding as a Profession

Medical billing and coding are sometimes thought to be the same thing. However, it is important to know that in terms of their roles and employment they are different.

Medical billing is the process of submitting and following up on claims to insurance companies in order to receive payment for services given by a healthcare provider. The same process is used for most insurance companies private or government owned. Medical billing professionals are responsible for the entering of patient and clinical data

Medical coding, however, is different from medical billing in that it deals more close-

Prescription Drug Coverage

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Pfizer Pfriends

The program Pfizer Pfriends offers savings on Pfizer medicines at the pharmacy counter. Over 95% of the retail pharmacies in the US participate. Pfizer Pfriends was developed in 2004 as the first patient assistance program to offer savings to people without prescription coverage, no matter their age or income.

Patient Eligibility

- No prescription coverage
- Legal resident of the US

How do I apply?


One may apply for the prescription programs either by calling Pfizer Helpful Answers at 1-866-706-2400 or by

visiting or speaking to a case worker at the UJO for additional assistance. (718-643-9700 ext. 206 or 210.)

It is important to know that in addition to the Helpful Answers Programs, Pfizer also participates in other pharmaceutical programs that help people without prescription



coverage. In particular is the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) that offers a single point of access to more than 475 patient assistance programs including over 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer Helpful Answers. For more information about PPA call 1-800-4PPA-NOW.



UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG, INC.
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32 Penn Street · Brooklyn, N.Y. 11211 · Tel: (718) 643-9700 · Fax: (718) 643-6581

For the first time in Williamsburg, we are starting a

Medical Billing & Coding Class

FOR WOMEN.

63-Hour course (5 1/2 weeks) 3 days weekly 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM (with a half-hour break for lunch).

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN A FIELD THAT IS IN DEMAND, WITH THE OPTION TO WORK FLEXIBLY FROM HOME. .

If you're interested and for more information, please call Yisroel Cohen, Director of UJO Workforce Development, at:

718.643.9700 ext. 227

Upcoming Women's classes

Beginners' Class:
MS Word & Excel

Excel & QuickBooks

starting in JULY - Register now for this class.
call **718.643.9700 # 215**

for a period of two months. Medical billing and coding are now

institutions. To register for the course or for additional information,

Child Care

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teacher/staff credentialing to religious schools

- continue to discuss further and distinguish between health/safety issues that the schools are

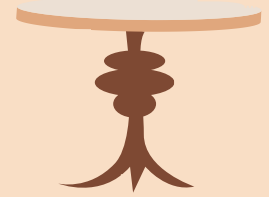
willing to comply with versus the issues that the schools would have difficulties meeting.

In regards to the NPR status, the DOHMH is exploring a way that certain pre-kindergarten programs operated by religious organizations could

make the DOHMH aware of their existence and be on-file with the Department without requiring them to hold a permit to operate. Lastly, the period for public comment was extended until July 30th or possibly later.

UJO Annual Legislative Breakfast

relevant not only to the Chassidic community of Williamsburg, but also to the larger Orthodox Jewish community of New York.



On Sunday May 13 several distinguished legislative and local community leaders gathered to celebrate the UJO's success in 'unifying and championing' the interests of the Chassidic Williamsburg community in areas such as housing, health care and legal and civil rights.

Rabbi David Niederman was recognized and celebrated for his 'modest and quiet manner' of nurturing a strong and close connection between the Chassidic Williamsburg community and influential legislative leaders who shape New York's laws and policies.

Among the lawmakers who attended were, Rep. Charles Rangel, Rep. Anthony Weiner, Rep. Ed Townes, Rep. Jerald Nadler, Hon. Joseph Bruno, Rep. Marty Markowitz, Councilman David Weprin, Councilman Simcha Felder and Councilman Erik Dilan.

A special tribute was made to renowned constitutional attorney and scholar, Nathan Lewin, who was also the keynote speaker. Lewin argued his first

case in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976, representing the Chassidic community's voting power against an arbitrary racial division of the district. He also later advocated

for the 'yarmulke in the military' which affected the acceptance of not only the yarmulke, but the full Chassidic garb in the public arena and in all vocational situations.

In sum, the Annual Legislative Breakfast proved to be very successful. In addition to the honors given, the gathering also fostered the continuation of discussions in areas

Medical Billing Course

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is highly specific to this area of work.

Job Outlook and Employment

Medical billing and coding, continue to be two of the fastest growing opportunities in the health care field. Insurance companies, and the government are spending more time and money researching and controlling claims fraud, abusive practices and medical necessity issues.

Because of this, insurance companies, doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, and other providers are hiring more. Most companies and practices are looking for experience and/or training because of the legal ramifications of incorrect billing/coding practices.

Medical billers and coders are able to work out of their homes, which makes this profession very attractive to stay at home mothers. They can either work for themselves getting independent physicians as clients or they can work for larger firms that provide them with their workload electronically. Positions are also available in doctors offices, hospitals, pharmacies, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers, insurance companies, accounting offices, legal offices and consulting firms.

Training and Qualifications

Presently there is no set standard for educational requirements in this field. However, more employers are starting to look for some type of formal training. Certification in these field is not mandatory but highly

recommended. It is also important to know that the advancement opportunities are unlimited including: office managers, supervisors, managers and directors of billing, examining departments or coding, reimbursement, and revenue cycles.

Nature of the work

A successful medical biller/coder will know basic medical terminology, anatomy, proper form completion and



required coding for the inputting of information. One will also need to have basic computer skills and be a proficient typer. Customer service and inter-office skills are also a necessity as one may often work closely with patients, other

office staff and/or medical personnel.

Working Environment

Medical billers and coders usually work in an office setting. Sometimes they are separate from where patients are being seen. There are billing offices and services in large corporate buildings, in small suburban offices, and in the doctor's office itself. Work hours are usually a typical 40 hr. work week. Overtime is often available and sometimes mandatory. Positions at insurance companies are likely to have few overnight or late hour shifts available.

Earnings

Medical billers and coders have a wage range between 10-12 an hour to start and up to 30-40 an hour for years of experience and responsibility.