



AVANTA[®]

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

FAX

JANUARY 7, 2005

Important Medicare News For 2005!

Effective January 1, 2005, Medicare providers will no longer have a 90-day grace period to use discontinued HCPCS codes for services rendered in the first 90 days of the year. Use of such codes to bill services provided after the date on which the codes are discontinued will cause your claims to be rejected and not paid. In essence, HCPCS codes must be valid at the time the service is rendered.



Providers should be aware that effective January 1, 2005, Carriers will no longer accept discontinued HCPCS codes for dates of service January 1 through March 31 of the current year (beginning in 2005) that are submitted prior to April 1.

To ensure prompt and timely payment of claims, use the new HCPCS for 2005 beginning with services rendered on or after January 1, 2005, and stop using discontinued codes at that time. Each year thereafter, be sure to adopt the new codes. For more information, please visit: <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicare/hcpcs>.

Note that your Avanta system has a feature that checks for obsolete CPT codes, which tend to closely follow the HCPCS codes. For more information on this, or to get your 2005 CPT book on-line (see following article), please call and speak to an Avanta support representative.

2005 CPT & ICD-9 Books

The 2005 CPT and ICD-9 electronic books are now available for your Avanta system at no charge to you. The books are automatically included in the Avanta update that is currently being released. However, if your Avanta system has not been updated since November 15th 2004, you may call Avanta to request the current books to be downloaded into your Avanta system remotely.

If you have any questions, or would like the 2005 books as soon as possible, please call and speak to an Avanta support representative.

\$250 Gift Certificate

Please remember to return your Avanta Customer Satisfaction Surveys by January 15th in order to be eligible for the \$250.00 Amazon or Nordstrom gift certificate.

Avanta Welcomes A New Team Member!

Avanta would like to welcome Daniel Rohan to the Avanta support team. Daniel is a graduate of University of California-Irvine with a major in computer science. In an attempt to reduce confusion, please ask for "Dan" if you would like to speak to Dan Herron, and "Daniel" for Daniel Rohan.

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