



AVANTA[®]

MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FAX

January 30, 2003

Privacy Rule Deadline

The Uniform Electronic Transaction Standards is the first section of HIPAA being implemented, and requires all health plans to accept this standard electronic data format (called ANSI 4010), and all transmissions to be submitted in this format. The deadline for compliance was originally set for October 16, 2002. However, anticipating implementation problems on the part of NHC/Medicare Administration, Congress allowed for a one-year compliance extension to October 16, 2003. The Avanta system has used the ANSI format for almost a decade, well before most other practice management systems. However, the HIPAA regulations require systems to be compatible with the newest version, which Avanta will be testing for and implementing well before the extended deadline.

The Privacy Rule which takes effect April 14, 2003, is the second section of HIPAA being implemented, and creates national standards to protect individuals' personal health information, giving patients increased access to their medical records. As required by HIPAA, the Privacy Rule covers health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers. Unlike the Uniform Transaction Standards, which involve software issues being addressed by Avanta, the Privacy Rule deals directly with patients, their information, and the operations of your office. For example: The Privacy Rule will require that Physicians provide patients with a notice of their privacy rights, the privacy practices of the covered entity, and make a good faith effort to obtain a patient's written acknowledgment. This and many other requirements must be reviewed and implemented in your office by the April 14, 2003 deadline. Please refer to the links on the Avanta website Links and HIPAA pages for additional information on the Privacy Rule and how it will affect your office.

B I G W I N N E R

Congratulations to Judy from Ventura County Pulmonary, the lucky winner of a \$25 Amazon.com gift certificate. Judy won the prize through a drawing offered to all clients who attended our latest seminar, *Avanta Practice Files and the New Patient Demographics Screens*, and fully completed the seminar evaluation.

Thanks to everyone who attended and completed an evaluation. Your feedback helps Avanta to better understand and meet your needs.

Electronic Billing

It has been brought to our attention that some of our clients have had to, on occasion, transmit electronic claims to Medicare and/or Proxymed several times before getting a successful transmission. This can be due to a high volume of callers at the time of transmission, a bad phone connection, busy modem bank, or many other technical issues with their system.

A vital part of transmitting electronic claims is verifying that Medicare and/or Proxymed *received* your claims submission, and more importantly are actually *processing* all your claims. Making sure that your transmission file reaches processing as soon as possible will help maximize your insurance billing results. There are several ways to ensure receipt and processing of your Medicare and /or 3rd Party electronic claims from the Electronic Billing Menu. If you have any questions regarding how to check the Medicare Transmission Log, the (ACK) Acknowledgment files, the (ESR) Error Summary Report files, or the Proxymed Daily and Monthly files, please call Avanta for assistance.

© Copyright 2003, Medical Applications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Medical Applications Corporation • 30851 Agoura Road, Suite 107 • Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Phone: 818.706.9191 • Fax: 818.706.9181 • www.avanta.com