



AVANTA
MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FAX

MARCH 15, 2004

Medicare Modifying HIPAA Contingency Plan

Effective July 1, 2004, Medicare is modifying its HIPAA contingency plan. The modification continues to allow submission of non-compliant electronic claims. However, the payment of electronic claims that are not HIPAA compliant will take thirteen additional days, extending the 13-day waiting period to 26-days.

This modification of CMS' medicare contingency plan for HIPAA implementation does not affect Avanta clients. Avanta was a Southern and Northern California approved vendor six months ahead of the October 16, 2003 HIPAA deadline. This upgrade was added to your system on the last update, and you already submit your claims in the HIPAA compliant ANSI 4010 format. Not having to worry about compliance issues is just another perk of being part of the Avanta team.

ProxyMed and United Healthcare

It has come to our attention that most if not all United Healthcare claims transmitted electronically through ProxyMed are being rejected. The rejection reason usually states that there is information missing from the claim, such as the Physician Group Number, or Practice Name. We have spoken with a Resolution Specialists at United Healthcare who told us the information that is missing electronically translates to the information normally placed in box 31 and 33 of the HCFA-1500 form.

When we were alerted of the situation we reviewed several electronic claims as they are transmitted out of the Avanta System, and every example contained all of the required data elements. This issue was then brought to the attention of a ProxyMed representative, and it appears that their system is incorrectly

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translating the information received from the Avanta System when it is being converted to the ANSI 4010 format. They are currently reviewing the issue with a ProxyMed representative at United Healthcare, and we are currently working with both parties to see that this issue gets resolved as quickly as possible.

Although we are hoping there will be a quick resolution to this problem, it is possible to send all of your United Health care claims on paper until that time. If you have any questions about United Healthcare, ProxyMed or selecting to temporarily send these claims on paper, please call Avanta.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, which recognizes his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions, and firework shows. Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

The Avanta staff will be dressed in green and available for support during our normal business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm with lunch from 12:30 to 1:45. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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