AVANTA® MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS FAX

March 21, 2003

FREE Seminar

Make sure to attend our next free seminar, Maximizing Insurance Billing Results, to be presented on March 26th and 27th, 2003.

The seminar will help streamline and add effectiveness to your office's billing process. Seminar topics to be discussed include:

DEFAULTS & TREATMENT FILE SET UP

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MEDICARE ELECTRONIC BILLING & AUTOMATIC MEDICARE EOB POSTING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THIRD PARTY ELECTRONIC BILLING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HCFA-1500 PAPER BILLING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OPEN INSURANCE ITEM REPORT

Avanta offers the choice of three free seminars including a morning and afternoon session on March 26th 2003, and an afternoon session on March 27th. Please contact Jennifer at Avanta to RSVP, and as space is limited, a 24-hour cancellation notice is required. If you are unable to attend our office sessions, training can be individually scheduled at your office for the regular training fee.

Testing Begins for the ANSI 4010 Format

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 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, ANSI 4010.

The deadline for compliance was originally set for October 16, 2002. However, anticipating implementation problems on the part of NHIC/ Medicare Administration, Congress allowed for a one-year compliance extension to October 16, 2003. This extension mandates that transactions testing begins by April 16, 2003.

As was anticipated, on March 10, 2003, a correction notice was published in the Federal Register for the final Modifications to Transactions and Code Sets regulation. The notice fixes some significant errors in the February 20 publication. Once the Avanta programming team received this correction, changes were made to the program, and test files have already been sent in this latest format. Once the testing process is complete, barring any more corrections to the final rule, we will release an update that includes the ANSI 4010-X096-A1 format. If you have any questions regarding the Transactions and Code Sets Rule or HIPAA in general, please call Avanta and ask for Andy.

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