



AVANTA[®]

MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FAX

April 28, 2003

Avanta is a Southern California Version 4010 Approved Vendor!

The Avanta programming team has been hard at work to ready your Avanta System for the upcoming October 16, 2003 deadline. A correction to the Transaction and Code Sets regulation was posted on March 10, 2003, changes were made to the program, and test files were sent in the latest format. After a few minor changes and corrections during the testing process, Avanta was approved and is now a NHIC ANSI 837 version 4010 approved vendor, six months ahead of the deadline. We will be releasing an update that includes the changes necessary for ANSI 4010 compliance very soon, and Dan will be calling your office to schedule this update well before the October deadline.

Other HIPAA Related Electronic Billing Issues...

With the upcoming HIPAA deadline there are several other Electronic Billing related issues that your office should be aware of. These are a couple of the issues which may affect you:

- ★ The Uniform Electronic Transaction Standards section of HIPAA requires that all electronic transmissions be submitted in the ANSI 4010 format by October 16, 2003. As a covered entity under HIPAA, you can assign ProxyMed as your Business Associate (BA). In this role, they will be responsible for converting your current claims format (IMS 4.0) to the HIPAA compliant format (ANSI 4010). For no charge, you may download the ProxyMed BA Agreement from the ProxyMed website (www.proxymed.com), which has already been executed. This will allow you to continue transmitting claims to them in the current format.

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- ★ At the October 16, 2003 deadline you will also be required to download the ANSI 997 and Error Summary Report (ESR) electronically. The Avanta System already has the ability to receive and view these files, and most of you are already doing so. However, if you never signed up to begin receiving ESR files, you must first fill out and mail or fax the sign-up form to Medicare. If you need an ESR sign-up form you can download a copy from our website (www.avanta.com), or if you have any questions about the Medicare ESR, the ANSI 4010 format, or HIPAA please contact Avanta.

Got UNIX?

Avanta clients have known for years that the UNIX systems you use are among the most secure on the market. However, it has now been confirmed by the independent risk management company mi2g, Ltd., who published a report on October 31, 2002. An excerpt from the report states: "Based on the number of vulnerabilities announced in 2002 that affect operating systems, the **SCO UNIX**, Apple Macintosh and Compaq Tru64 Operating Systems appear to be the least prone to hacker attack and damage from viruses and worms."

In addition to being least prone to viruses, it is common for us to come across client systems that have been up and running for several hundred days. Compare this to the number of times you have reset your PC in the same amount of time, and you know why it is good to have the rock solid stability and dependability of an Avanta UNIX system for your practice data.

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