



**AVANTA**  
MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**FAX**  
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It all started when a group of settlers known as Pilgrims settled in a place known as Plymouth. These settlements quickly grew and 13 colonies were established. Although the settlers fled England to avoid religious persecution they found themselves still under the British rule of King George II.

The colonies struggled for independence and autonomy from the clutches of England for many years. England was far away and was unable to be actively involved with the welfare of the colonists. They did, however, levy heavy taxes on all products going to the colonies, to which the colonist protested "taxation without representation".

On July 4, 1776, Congress passed the Declaration of Independence. It announced to the world that "these United Colonies" are "Free and Independent States" and absolved their ties with England, thus beginning the war for independence. They had declared their right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. By the early 1800's the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate America's birthday.

Avanta will be closed Monday July 5<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Independence Day. However, our automated phone attendant allows software and hardware team members to be paged in the event of an emergency. Have a safe and relaxing holiday!

## 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 benefit of being part of the Avanta team.

## Admission Date Requirement on Inpatient Services

Effective July 1, 2004 Medicare will require the Date of Admission for all inpatient services. We have recently added this edit to your Billing Reject Messages to ensure that inpatient hospital services are never billed without a hospital admit date.

When inpatient services are being billed, the patient Demographic "Hospitalized From" field needs to be populated with the admission date. If this date is not present at the time the transmission is built, the Avanta System will reject the claim with a reason stating "No Hosp Admit Date:". If you see this error simply add the admission date to the "Hospitalized From" field on the Primary Insurance Data screen, and this claim will be included in the next electronic transmission. If you have any other questions regarding this new Medicare requirement, please call Avanta.

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