



AVANTA[®]

MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FAX

September 16, 2002

HIPAA Extension

The deadline for compliance (for the Uniform Electronic Transaction Standards, which contains guidelines for simple, uniform electronic data submission formats,) was originally set for October 16, 2002. However, anticipating implementation problems on the part of the Medicare Administration, Congress has allowed for a one-year compliance extension to October 16, 2003.

HIPAA Extension Points:

- ★ The requirement to submit a compliance extension plan, provides officials an assurance that covered entities have plans in place that will allow them to be compliant by the new deadline of October 16, 2003.
- ★ The submission of a properly completed compliance plan is sufficient to secure the one-year extension.
- ★ This extension will allow providers time to assess their compliance needs, thoroughly test their systems and be ready under the new standards.

To receive this extension, your practice must file for an extension by October 15, 2002, which Dan was going to assist you in doing while performing a system update. However, to assure that all extensions are submitted well before the October 15 deadline, we will now be mailing out an ASCA Form extension package to all electronic billing clients. This package will include the ASCA extension form, and a letter that will detail information on why you need to fill out the form, suggestions on how to answer some of the questions on the form, and information on filling out the form on-line.

The ASCA Form and letter will be mailed to your office soon, so please be aware of this important package. If you have any questions regarding HIPAA, or the extension form, please call Avanta and ask for Andy.

HOT TIP

The next time your terminal freezes for no apparent reason and does not respond to your key strokes, try typing "CTRL-Q" (hold down the "ctrl" key and press the letter "Q" once) to free it. This will release a scroll lock that may have been inadvertently activated on your terminal. Subsequently, all the keystrokes that have been entered since your terminal initially froze will be released, which may cause your terminal to randomly scroll through or exit the system.

About 70% of all frozen terminal cases are caused by this erroneous sequence of keystrokes that sends a data flow lock to the server. In most cases, "CTRL-Q" will fix it. However, if this does not release your frozen terminal, please call Avanta for further assistance. To help us get your terminal up and running more quickly, please provide the Avanta Support Specialist with the terminal number, login name, function of the system you were last working on, and anything that you see displayed on the screen.

S...L....O.....W Server???

Is your office idle while you run reports, process insurance billing, and run statements? Are you having to wait while one job finishes before you can begin another? A new server offers the speed and reliability of an Intel[®] Pentium processor along with many other significant and useful features. Please call Chip at Avanta if you have any questions regarding upgrading your Avanta system.

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