



Will Medicare Continue To Accept Paper Claims???

The Electronic Transaction section of HIPAA contains guidelines for simple, uniform electronic health care data submission formats. All health plans will be required to accept this standard electronic data format (called ANSI 4010) and all transmissions must be submitted in this format by October 16, 2003.

We have received several calls regarding an EDI Submitter Newsletter or a third party mailing/fax solicitation regarding the upcoming HIPAA deadline. The information you may have received seems to suggest that after the October 16, 2003 deadline, Medicare will not accept paper claims. What they fail to explain is that there are exceptions for "small providers".

The term "small provider" is defined as: A provider of services with fewer than 25 full time equivalent employees. If your office has fewer than 25 full time employees, you are exempt from having to transmit your claims electronically and will be able to continue sending paper claims. If your office has more than 25 full time employees you will be required to begin transmitting your claims electronically to Medicare after October 16, 2003.

If you choose to or are required to send your claims electronically to Medicare, Avanta is already a HIPAA approved vendor. We released an update that includes the changes necessary to be HIPAA ANSI 4010 compliant and Dan will be calling your office to schedule this update well before the October 16, 2003 deadline. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding HIPAA and/or Medicare billing, please call Avanta.