



Medicare Transition Update

November 17th is the latest announced date for the Medicare processing changeover from Transamerica to NHIC. After this date, Transamerica will no longer process Medicare Claims.

Avanta has completed the necessary changes for claims to be sent to NHIC. We have updated many clients and worked with them to submit test claims. However, NHIC is running at least two weeks behind in responding to these tests. We began client updates last month, and will have updates completed by November 17th. If any additional programming is needed, we will perform further updates via modem. Updates will take somewhat longer than usual as NHIC is requiring that all submitters test their transmissions; usually this testing will be done as part of your update.

In addition to the changes required by NHIC, we have also included the automatic translation of the Transamerica "OCNA" numbers to NHIC's secondary payor numbers. This means that you will not have to immediately update your secondary payor numbers, but we urge you to do so at your earliest convenience after the changeover is complete. We have also retained the ability to transmit to Transamerica in the event that the changeover is delayed.

Although your "OCNA" numbers will be automatically translated to NHIC's secondary payor numbers, you will have to change AARP's payor number manually. The reason for this is because the original secondary payor list provided to us was incomplete. Make sure not to change this number

Seminar Information

The next half-day Avanta seminars will be held on December 12th, 13th & 14th. The session topics include the insurance billing and response history and the new patient payment posting program. Many sessions fill up quickly, so call now to reserve your place!

Other Medicare News



Transamerica announced that they will decrease the waiting period for claims submitted between November 7th and 17th. By November 17th, the payment floor will have decreased from 14 to 0 days in order to help compensate for the lag time when NHIC will not be processing claims. Claims submitted to NHIC between November 18th and 30th will be processed beginning December 1st. NHIC's payment floor will be 14 days starting December 1st.

Also, if your office is currently using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) with Transamerica, you will need to complete a new EFT agreement with NHIC.

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