



AVANTA[®]

MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FAX

November 12, 2002

HIPAA Continues...

The Uniform Electronic Transaction Standards is the first section of HIPAA being implemented, and requires all health plans to accept this standard electronic data format (called ANSI 4010), and all transmissions to be submitted in this format. The deadline for compliance was originally set for October 16, 2002. However, anticipating implementation problems on the part of NHIC/Medicare Administration, Congress allowed for a one-year compliance extension to October 16, 2003. The Avanta system has used the ANSI format for almost a decade, well before most other practice management systems. However, the HIPAA regulations require systems to be compatible with the newest version, which Avanta will be implementing well before the extended deadline.

The Privacy Rule which takes effect April 14, 2003, is the second section of HIPAA being implemented, and creates national standards to protect individuals' personal health information, giving patients increased access to their medical records. As required by HIPAA, the Privacy Rule covers health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers. Unlike the Uniform Transaction Standards which are software issues that will be addressed by Avanta, the Privacy Rule deals directly with patient's information and the operations of your office. For example: The Privacy Rule will require that Physicians provide patients with a notice of their privacy rights, the privacy practices of the covered entity, and make a good faith effort to obtain a patient's written acknowledgment. This and many other requirements must be reviewed and implemented in your office by the April 14, 2003 deadline. Please refer to the links on the Avanta website Links and HIPAA pages for additional information on the Privacy Rule and how it will affect your office.

Upgrade Now and Reduce Your Tax Bill!!!

Did you know that if you upgrade your Avanta equipment this year, you can usually save on your next Income Tax Return?

Yes, a special section of the IRS code allows many businesses to immediately deduct the cost of equipment purchases, rather than spreading the deduction over several years. For most physicians in the higher tax brackets, this means that you could pay for 30% to 45% of the upgrade cost with your first year tax savings alone.

Right now is a great time to upgrade to a high speed color printer, sharp and space saving flat panel color screens, or best of all, a new high speed server with fault-protection dual disk drives.

Call Chip at Avanta today to lock in your tax savings for 2002. (Please consult with your accountant or tax adviser to see if tax savings apply to your specific situation-mention section 179 of the IRS Code).

B I G W i n n e r

Congratulations to Carol from Dr. Quan, the lucky winner of a \$25 Amazon.com gift certificate. Carol won the prize through a drawing offered to all clients who attended our latest seminars, *Group Functions and the MedBase Groupbuilder and the Appointment Scheduler*, and fully completed the seminar evaluation.

Thanks to everyone who attended and completed an evaluation. Your feedback helps Avanta to better meet your needs.

© Copyright 2002, Medical Applications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Medical Applications Corporation • 30851 Agoura Road, Suite 107 • Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Phone: 818.706.9191 • Fax: 818.706.9181 • www.avanta.com