

To: Electronic Claims/Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) Transmission Users

From: Maryland Medicare Part A EDI Department

Re: Replacement of Transmission Methods

*******IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION*******

Maryland Medicare Part A is changing the methods it uses to receive and distribute electronic batch data. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) System Security Requirements and outdated CareFirst Software, require the introduction of new methods for communicating Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). As of October 3, 2005 Providers/Clearing Houses will no longer be able use the current connectivity methods for submitting ANSI 837 Claims and receiving Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) and ANSI 837 Translator Acceptance Reports.

In order to facilitate compliance with the new requirements, Maryland Medicare Part A is notifying you about two vendors that can provide alternative network service connectivity for our Electronic Trading Partners. The Vendors below offer many types of services and many benefits. We have included information about both companies as well as their contact information. In addition, we have provided links to each company's Web Site so you can review information for each company.

There are costs associated with both options, so we strongly encourage that you contact these vendors in the near future to determine which one best meet the needs of your business environment. You may have two different departments involved with this endeavor, one for claims and another for ERA. Please make sure all impacted departments are notified.

For questions regarding the described changes, please contact Joe Yurfest at 410-561-4003.

NOTE – The proposed changes do NOT impact your current method for accessing any FISS applications, including Eligibility Inquiry (HIQA, ELGA), Claims Entry and Return To Provider (RTP) Resolution.

VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION

IVANS

Many submitters are already using IVANS services for accessing Medicare Direct Data Entry (DDE) applications such as eligibility and claim status and resolution. IVANS is extending its services to include its Electronic Commerce Server (ECS) to transmit claims and receive ERA and Claim Translator Reports. IVANS offers several connectivity options including dial, leased lines and Internet. For pricing and specific questions about IVANS, contact their support group at 800-548-2675. If you would like to learn more about the IVANS solution, visit IVANS on the web at, www.ivans.com/marylandmedicare.

VisionShare

The VisionShare Secure Exchange Software™ allows providers or clearing houses the ability to use their high-speed internet connection for file transfer and real-time Part A, DDE applications. The file transfer feature allows providers the ability to transmit claims, receive ERAs and Claim Translator Reports. In addition to file transfer, VisionShare also provides access to the FISS for Maryland Part A DDE. If you would like to learn more about VisionShare, call their sales hotline at 651-305-2727 or go to their web site at, www.visionshareinc.com and select Maryland.