

**TO: All Providers**

**FROM: CareFirst of Maryland, Inc.**

**DATE: April 1, 2003**

**SUBJECT: Free Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)  
Billing Software**

This is to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue support of the free Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act billing software through FY 2004 and beyond. CMS initially intended to phase out the free billing software during FY 2004 since we expected that providers would experience the benefits of electronic billing by using our basic free billing software and would procure or develop more sophisticated practice management or billing software that performed additional functions. However, due to the continued provider requests and use of the free billing software, and recognizing that most providers will be mandated to send claims electronically to Medicare, CMS has decided to continue support of the free billing software.

**Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to the provider relations department at (866) 488-0545.**

**THIS BULELTIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDER/SUPPLIER STAFF. ALL BULLETINS ISSUED AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1999 ARE AVAILABLE AT NO COST FROM OUR WEB SITE AT [www.marylandmedicare.com](http://www.marylandmedicare.com).**