

Special Reminder Notice to All Providers October 1, 2002

The Upcoming Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Deadline

The deadline for submitting an extension request for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) transaction and code set standards is fast approaching. Providers who are HIPAA covered entities must either be compliant by the original deadline – October 16, 2002 – or request a 1-year extension by October 15, 2002. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) strongly encourages every entity that does not expect to be compliant to submit an extension request as soon as possible. For more information and to file the form, please visit www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa.

*****Remember: The filing deadline is October 15, 2002.*****

A provider must file an extension or be HIPAA compliant if they conduct any of the HIPAA transactions – including claims – electronically. This includes providers who retain a billing agent or other business associates to submit electronic claims or other electronic transactions on their behalf. However, any Medicare provider that does not submit electronic claims or transactions (themselves or through an agent) is not considered a covered entity under HIPAA, and does not need to submit an extension request.

THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITONERS 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.