

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

March 26, 1997

General Medicare Bulletin G-278

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Andy DePirro, Director, Program Relations

SUBJECT: **FRAUD ALERT: BILLING CONSULTANTS MAXIMIZING REVENUE (OIG 97-01)**

ATTENTION MEDICARE BUSINESS OFFICE: Please distribute to all appropriate health care facility personnel.

The Medicare Fraud Unit has requested that the National Medicare Fraud Alert (NMFA - OIG 97-01) be communicated to the Medicare Part A provider community. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) fraud alert (OIG 97-01) details what appears to be a scheme in which billing consultants are approaching providers (e.g., hospitals) with a marketing concept to increase revenues through an analysis of existing Medicare claims.

Although this Fraud Alert has been widely circulated by the Fraud Unit, this bulletin distribution is an attempt to ensure that all Medicare Part A providers are aware of this potential fraud situation. Educated consumers and providers are less likely to become victims of fraud scams. Therefore, educational endeavors of this nature are intended to enhance our provider community's ability to protect themselves and, in the process, protect the Medicare Trust Fund.

Questions regarding the attached Fraud Alert (OIG 97-01) may be addressed to the Jack Martin of the Medicare Fraud Unit by calling 904/791-8192.

NOTE: THE FRAUD ALERT ATTACHMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THIS FORMAT. CONTACT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT (904-355-8899), TO REQUEST A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS BULLETIN.