

# MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

June 16, 1998

General Medicare Bulletin G-337

TO: All Participating Medicare Providers

FROM: The B-Line Bulletin Board System (BBS)

SUBJECT: **MEDICARE PART A REPORTS AVAILABLE VIA THE B-LINE BBS**

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

Attention Part A providers, you can now obtain important reports, relating specifically to your facility, electronically via the Medicare B-Line Bulletin Board System (BBS)! The BBS is a computerized on-line service that can be accessed 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week using your own computer and modem. By logging into the BBS with a pre-set User ID and Password\*, you can view these reports on-line or copy them to your own computer. Each report is kept secure and confidential. Only authorized personnel that you allow to have access to the User ID and Password will be able to view these reports.

Once on-line, providers can access the Provider Statistical & Reimbursement (PS&R) summary report and the Claims Status (201) report for your facility and related sub-providers. The PS&R report gives summary information by fiscal period for Medicare claims that have been processed and paid. The Claims Status report identifies claims that are pending, return-to-provider, and processed (rejected, denied or paid).

## **How it Works**

During the first two weeks in July, your facility's administrator will receive a BBS access package in the mail. (Each provider for which Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida is the intermediary will receive this material.) The package will include your confidential user ID and password, a free BBS communications program and instructions. Load the program into your computer. Start the program and log on to the BBS using your assigned ID and password. To view or copy your reports, choose the "Personal File Library" option at the Main Menu. That's all there is to it!

## **Benefits of using the BBS include:**

- Reports are posted to the BBS the same day they are mailed. By using the BBS you obtain the information much quicker.
- Additional copies of the report are available at no extra cost.
- Your access to the BBS is toll-free!

- The BBS also contains vast amounts of Medicare information that you can use in your daily operations. The BBS offers Medicare Fee Schedules, a backlog of Part A bulletins, a Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) directory, Part A and B Medical Policy, etc.
- Look for more provider-specific information on the BBS in the future.

It is anticipated that the BBS will replace the hardcopy mailing of the 201 and PS&R reports in 1998, becoming the ONLY method of distribution. Now is a good time to get on the electronic bandwagon. When you receive your BBS access package, load it and use it. The benefits are immediate.

\*Current BBS users MUST use the pre-set user ID and Password in order to access their personal reports.