

# MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

May 20, 1999

General Medicare Bulletin G-372

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Program Relations

SUBJECT: **Announcing Changes to the *Medicare A Bulletin!***

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

The Medicare Education and Outreach Department is pleased to announce several enhancements to the *Medicare A Bulletin*. Starting June 1, 1999, the *Bulletin* will have a new format, and all Part A providers will receive the same edition. This new format, which was created based on feedback from key Part A providers, will provide comprehensive information on a regularly-scheduled basis.

The publication will be bound, magazine-style, and published **bimonthly**. The new front page will include highlights of significant articles and the logos of the Health Care Financing Administration and First Coast Service Options, Inc., so providers may quickly see that the *Bulletin* is an official Medicare contractor publication. Each issue of the *Bulletin* will include important addresses and telephone numbers. The *Bulletin* will also include information about the Medicare Online Bulletin Board System, seminars, and educational materials available to providers.

## **Publication Schedule**

The *Bulletin* will be published every other month. The first issue, **June/July 1999**, will be released the first week of June, with the following schedule for the rest of 1999:

- August/September 1999
- October/November 1999
- December 1999/January 2000
- HCPCS 2000 Special Edition (scheduled for release in late December 1999)

The *Bulletin* will be mailed during the first two weeks of an issue's first month (e.g., the August/September issue will be mailed between August 1 and 15).

## **Layout**

Each *Bulletin* will be divided into the following sections:

- **Medical Policy** (Final Local Medical Review Policies)
- **Administrative** (Non-coverage information for all facilities and Part A providers<sup>3/4</sup> Y2K, ARU upgrades, Medicare secondary payer, cost reports, interest rates, etc.)
- **General Coverage** (Coverage guidelines for all facilities and Part A providers.)
- **Community Mental Health Center**
- **Community Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility/Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility**
- **End Stage Renal Disease**
- **Hospital**
- **Rural Health Clinic**
- **Skilled Nursing Facility**
- **Electronic Data Interchange** (Electronic claims information)

Section titles will appear in the *Bulletin* only when an article in that category is published. For example, if there are no **Hospital** or **CORF/ORF** articles, those sections will be omitted.

Grouping articles will allow readers to quickly find information they are interested in.

## **Draft Medical Policies**

Draft medical policies will be distributed separately to Part A customers, in special editions of the *Part A Bulletin*. These special editions will be clearly marked, and deadlines for submitting feedback on the policies will be clearly noted.