



# Medicare: Today's Issue

May 10, 2004

## *BETTER BENEFITS – MORE CHOICES*

*Good News about the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003!*

### **Small Provider Technical Assistance Demonstration Program**

- ❖ The new Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) creates a demonstration program to assist small providers and suppliers with needed technical assistance, upon request.
  - Under this provision, the MMA requires that providers who participate in this demonstration program pay an amount equal to 25 percent of the technical assistance.
  - The technical assistance to be provided includes evaluation and recommendations regarding billing and related systems, as well as information and assistance regarding Medicare policies and procedures, including coding and reimbursement.
  - More specifically, technical assistance includes direct and in-person examination of billing systems and internal controls to determine program compliance and to suggest more efficient or effective means of achieving compliance.
  - To provide technical assistance, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is to enter into contracts with qualified organizations, such as peer review organizations or Quality Improvement Organizations, with expertise in billing systems of the full range of providers of services and suppliers.
  - For the purposes of this demonstration, a small provider of services or supplier is defined as a provider of services with fewer than 24 full-time-equivalent employees or a supplier with fewer than 10 full-time-equivalent employees.