



Medicare: Today's Issue
June 29, 2004

BETTER BENEFITS – MORE CHOICES

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

Payment For Pancreatic Islet Cell Investigational Transplants For Medicare Beneficiaries In Clinical Trials

- ❖ Pancreatic islet cell transplants are an investigational therapy and Medicare has a national non-coverage determination for them. Thus, Medicare does not pay for pancreatic islet cell transplants.
- ❖ A provision in the new Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders, to conduct a clinical investigation of pancreatic islet cell transplantation, which includes Medicare beneficiaries.
- ❖ The MMA requires Medicare to pay for routine costs of the clinical trial, including immunosuppressive drugs, as well as the transplantation and appropriate related items and services for Medicare beneficiaries accepted into such clinical trials.
- ❖ Medicare payment will begin no earlier than October 1, 2004.