

**American Medical Association
American Medical Group Association
Medical Group Management Association**

December 2004

Dear Medical Group Leader:

We want you to know that **CIGNA Corporation may owe you money**. As a result of a recent settlement of a class-action lawsuit brought by the nation's physicians against CIGNA, many physician groups are entitled to compensation for past claims submissions that may have been partially or completely denied. However, in order to claim the money owed, medical groups must complete and submit claims for the compensation owed.

All physicians, **even those without contracts with CIGNA or who never submitted a claim to CIGNA**, are eligible for relief. Physicians who do not file timely claims will be time barred from accepting any compensation. Claims must be filed before February 18, 2005.

The American Medical Association (AMA), American Medical Group Association (AMGA), and Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) are sending this joint letter to medical groups because we are concerned that a large percentage of practices have not yet filed claims for the compensation owed to them.

Where should you start in the claims filing process? Medical groups can either pursue a do-it-yourself approach and file their own claims, or contract with a third party to assist in preparing and filing claims.

The settlement requires CIGNA to establish a number of distinct funds to compensate physicians. CIGNA has set up a Category A Settlement Fund with \$30 million. Medical groups may submit a Category A Settlement Fund Claim form to receive a share of the fund. Alternatively, medical groups may submit claims for specific payment reductions and denials during the class period (1990-2002) through an uncapped Claims Distribution Fund. This Fund consists of a number of categories of relief with a minimum value of \$40 million (but no maximum). Physicians may seek payment from either the Category A Settlement Fund or the Claims Distribution Fund, but not both.

If your medical group plans to file its own claim, please first visit www.ama-assn.org/go/psa or www.hmosettlements.com to learn about your options. Review the Category One Code List carefully to see the types of services identified and particular time periods, as well the associated payment levels. Next, contact the Settlement Administrator, Poorman Douglas Corp., toll free at (866) 809-8003 to request your Category Two Facilitation List. The Facilitation List is an electronic document, specific to physicians, that serves as a general guideline of some of the claims physicians submitted that may be eligible for recovery if physicians (or medical groups) file a Category Two claim. You can request the Facilitation List online at www.cignaphysiciansettlement.com or contact the Settlement Administrator directly.

For specific questions about who is eligible to file claims or how medical groups should file, please contact Melissa F. Calabrese of Whatley Drake, LLC, an attorney assigned by the plaintiffs to answer physician questions related to the CIGNA settlement claims process. Ms. Calabrese can be reached toll free at (866) 809-8003.

If your medical group prefers to retain a third party to assist in preparing and filing claims, several vendors are available to help you. The AMA and most of the plaintiff county and state medical societies have signed an agreement with the Managed Care Advisory Group to provide physicians who are members of the AMA or these other medical societies with discounts off this vendor's fees. The AMA, AMGA and MGMA do not have any financial interest in any vendor assisting physicians with this process. We simply want to make sure all physicians are appropriately compensated.

The AMA, AMGA or MGMA cannot decide whether or in what fashion your medical group should file a claim. However, if you would like additional information beyond that obtainable from the sources indicated above, please feel free to contact any of the following staff: Matthew Katz, AMA Director, Private Payer Advocacy, matthew_katz@ama-assn.org; Chet Speed, AMGA Vice President, Public Policy and Political Affairs, cspeed@amga.org; or Amy Milford, JD, MGMA Government Affairs Representative, amilford@mgma.com.

Sincerely,



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