



# Medicare: Today's Issue

April 28, 2004

## *BETTER BENEFITS – MORE CHOICES*

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

### Expanded Coverage of Intravenous Immune Globulin (IVIG) Therapies

#### Prior to the MMA:

- ❖ Prior to the Medicare Modernization Act, Medicare covered intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) for the treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases as a component of inpatient or outpatient facility services, or incident to a physician's service. IVIG therapies were not covered in the Medicare beneficiary's place of residence.

#### Upon enactment of the MMA:

- ❖ The MMA requires Medicare to pay for intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) for the treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases in the eligible individual's place of residence for items furnished beginning January 1, 2004.
- ❖ The provision was implemented on April 1, 2004, retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Implementation was not possible on January 1<sup>st</sup> due to multiple changes required in the Medicare carrier systems, which could not be accomplished during such a brief time period.