

WHAT DOES IT MEAN
IF MD'S ARE "PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS" ?

ABOUT MEDICARE PARTICIPATION

To sign a Medicare participation agreement is to agree to accept assignment for all covered services that you provide to Medicare patients.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

If you bill for physicians' professional services, services and supplies (such as drugs and biologicals) provided incident to physicians' professional services, outpatient physical and occupational therapy services, diagnostic tests, and radiology services, your Medicare fee schedule amounts are not reduced by 5 percent as they are for nonparticipating physicians.

Also, regardless of the Medicare Part B services for which you are billing, participants have "one stop" billing for beneficiaries who have nonemployment-related Medigap coverage and who assign both their Medicare and Medigap payments to participants. After we have made payment, we automatically send the claim on to the Medigap insurer for payment of all coinsurance and deductible amounts due under the Medigap policy. The Medigap insurer must pay the participant directly.

The number of physicians, practitioners and suppliers who choose to participate in Medicare continues to grow. During CY 2001, 88.7 percent of all physicians, practitioners and suppliers are billing under signed Medicare participation agreements - this was a 0.4 percent increase over the number of CY 2000 participants.

"WE" (MEANS MEDICARE)!