

News Release



February 5, 1993

CONTACT: Patrick McCabe
(904) 791-6123
S. Martin Filipowski
(904) 791-8075

BCBSF WORKING TO INFORM PUBLIC ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CHANGES TO MEDICARE IN 1993

JACKSONVILLE -- As part of its continuing efforts to better serve Florida's Medicare beneficiaries, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) today announced the federal government's changes to the Medicare program in 1993.

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida continually strives to improve its Medicare service," said W. Charles Scott, vice president of Medicare Part B for BCBSF. "Keeping Medicare beneficiaries informed of changes in the government's guidelines is an important part of our role as the state's Medicare carrier."

The Medicare Program is divided into two parts. Medicare Part A helps Medicare beneficiaries pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility, and for hospice and home care. Medicare Part B helps pay for other items such as doctor services, durable medical equipment, diagnostic tests, outpatient hospital care and ambulance service.

In 1993, the federal government implemented the following changes to the Medicare program:

- o The monthly Part B premium, which is automatically deducted from beneficiaries' Social Security checks, increased to \$36.60 from \$31.80 per month.
- o The Part A deductible for hospitalization, which beneficiaries must pay before Medicare begins to pay hospital bills, increased from \$652 to \$676 for each benefit period. A benefit period begins the first day eligible beneficiaries are released from a skilled care environment and ends at day 60.

--more--

**BCBSF WORKING TO INFORM PUBLIC ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S
CHANGES TO MEDICARE IN 1993**

page 2 of 2

- o The daily co-payment, which Medicare beneficiaries must pay for hospital stays, increased to \$169 from \$163 per day for days 61 through 90, and from \$326 to \$388 per day for days 91 through 150.
- o The daily co-payment for stays in a skilled nursing facility increased to \$84.50 from \$81.50 for days 21 through 100.

In 1993, doctors who do not participate in the Medicare program may not charge beneficiaries more than 15 percent above Medicare's approved payment amount.

BCBSF is one of three administrators in Florida for Medicare Part A, and is the sole administrator for Medicare Part B.