

# News Release



February 23, 1993

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### AREA SENIORS LEARN HOW TO FIGHT MEDICARE FRAUD

**WHO:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's (BCBSF) Medicare Fraud Branch.

**WHAT:** BCBSF is sponsoring a series of seminars designed to empower area seniors with the knowledge needed to protect themselves from Medicare fraud and abuse.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 24, 1993.  
12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.,  
or 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.,  
or 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

**WHERE:** **PALM BEACH**  
Palm Beach County Convention Center  
Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. at Congress Ave.

**WHY:** Florida's seniors are targeted by individuals attempting to defraud the Medicare program. BCBSF is helping fight Medicare fraud by educating seniors on fraudulent practices.

The seminar is scheduled as President Clinton is targeting fraud and abuse as an important element of the federal government's plan to reduce Medicare costs. Health care fraud costs taxpayers approximately \$80 billion each year, according to an estimate by the federal government.

**NOTE:** In fiscal year 1992, BCBSF's Medicare Fraud Branch teamed-up with the federal government to investigate and order recoveries of \$10 million in Florida resulting from overpayments to physicians by Medicare, civil monetary penalties and court-ordered restitution.

The seminars are scheduled in conjunction with BCBSF's Healthy Lifestyles Expo, an event of the Ninth Annual Senior Activities Festival. A complete list of Expo activities is attached.

BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA HEALTHY LIFESTYLES EXPO  
for Palm Beach County Area Senior Citizens  
Palm Beach County Convention Center  
Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.  
Wednesday, February 24, 1993  
10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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|-------|---|
| 10:30 | Healthtracks<br>Chest Pain Clinic<br>Home Health Care<br>Long-term Care                                 |
| 11:30 | Seniors vs. Crime<br>Medicare Update<br>The Conservative Investor<br>Respite Support                    |
| 12:30 | Rhythm 'n Exercise<br>YWCA<br>Medicare Fraud and Abuse  |
| 1:30  | Seniors vs. Crime<br>First Aid and Safety<br>Drug Interaction<br>Learning and Growing                   |
| 2:30  | Healthtracks<br>First Aid and Safety<br>Estate Planning<br>Medicare Fraud and Abuse                     |
| 3:30  | Living Wills<br>Learning and Growing<br>Drug Interaction<br>Medicare Fraud and Abuse                    |
| 4:30  | Taking Care of Your Eyes<br>Respite Support<br>Caregiver's Workshop<br>Long-term Care                   |
| 5:30  | Nutrition for a Healthy Senior Lifestyle<br>Medicare Update<br>Caregiver's Workshop<br>Home Health Care |