

News Release



April 6, 1993

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

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's Anti-fraud Programs Saved Over \$1.8 Million in 1992

JACKSONVILLE -- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) today reported over \$1.8 million in recoveries as a result of its anti-fraud programs in 1992, a 50 percent increase over 1991 savings of \$1.2 million. Referrals to law enforcement agencies also increased 35 percent, from 26 in 1991 to 35 in 1992.

BCBSF's anti-fraud activities range from staffing telephone hotlines to assisting state and federal investigators with their detailed investigations.

"Fighting fraud is one of the most important ways we are helping our customers control their health care costs and increasing access to affordable health care," said BCBSF Director of Special Investigations Chuck Hammaker. "We know the majority of health care professionals are honest, and we want to help protect the practice of good medicine."

In 1992, BCBSF opened 164 investigations. Schemes used to defraud the company included charging for services not performed; billing for more expensive services than provided; billing by physicians whose licensing was based on false information; altering medical bills; and submitting improper codes in order to receive additional reimbursement.

BCBSF customers or concerned Floridians who suspect insurance fraud should call the company's hotline at 1-800-678-8355 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (EDT), Monday through Friday.

-- 30 --

April 6, 1993

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

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's Anti-fraud Programs
Saved Over \$1.8 Million in 1992**

JACKSONVILLE -- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) today reported over \$1.8 million in recoveries as a result of its anti-fraud programs in 1992, a 50 percent increase over 1991 savings of \$1.2 million. Referrals to law enforcement agencies also increased 35 percent, from 26 in 1991 to 35 in 1992.

BCBSF's anti-fraud activities range from staffing telephone hotlines to assisting state and federal investigators with their detailed investigations.

"Fighting fraud is one of the most important ways we are helping our customers control their health care costs and increasing access to affordable health care," said BCBSF Director of Special Investigations Chuck Hammaker. "We know the majority of health care professionals are honest, and we want to help protect the practice of good medicine."

In 1992, BCBSF opened 164 investigations. Schemes used to defraud the company included charging for services not performed; billing for more expensive services than provided; billing by physicians whose licensing was based on false information; altering medical bills; and submitting improper codes in order to receive additional reimbursement.

BCBSF customers or concerned Floridians who suspect insurance fraud should call the company's hotline at 1-800-678-8355 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (EDT), Monday through Friday.

--30--

A2
Phoenix
Slie

3-week period
Scallo

Correct
number — on
the original
release.

1-800-678-3855