

News Release



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MEDIA ADVISORY

AREA SENIORS TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT MEDICARE FRAUD

WHO: The Medicare Part B Fraud Branch of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF)

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

WHEN: **Tuesday, May 4, 1993.**
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: **JACKSONVILLE**
Mary L. Singleton Center
150 E. First Street

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 overbilling by physicians, civil monetary penalties and court-ordered restitution.

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