

## **CIGNA Settlement Notice Mailed: Practices May Refile Prior Claims**

A second notice of the availability of monetary relief under the CIGNA lawsuit settlement agreements has been mailed to all North Carolina physicians. The notice, entitled: "Notice of Commencement of Claims Period in Settlement of Class Action among CIGNA Healthcare and Physicians" commences a claims submission period which will start August 23, 2004 and end on February 18, 2005.

The CIGNA Agreement contains provisions establishing three separate funds:

- Category A Settlement Fund: Limited to \$30 million
- Claim Distribution Fund: No Limitation/Cap
  - + Category One Compensation: Specific Code List
  - + Category Two Compensation: Other Codes
  - + Medical Necessity Claims Compensation
- Foundation Fund: \$15 million

Physician practices may elect to file under the Category A Settlement Fund or the Claim Distribution Fund, but not both. It is recommended that this decision be made quickly since it may take several months to assemble the necessary documentation if the Claim Distribution Fund option is elected. Physician practices have 180 days to file, between August 23, 2004 and February 18, 2005.

Physician practices may submit proofs of claim on behalf of physicians employed by or otherwise working with them at the time that the claims were incurred without necessity of individual signatures and using the same tax identification number as the original claim. Thus, it is extremely important that physician practices instruct their physicians not to independently send in the proofs of claim. If a proof of claim for the Category A Settlement Fund is received from one physician under the group identification number, it may automatically pre-empt other physicians in the group from filing under the Claim Distribution Fund under the same identification number.

The CIGNA Settlement Agreement and related documents can be found at [www.ncmedsoc.org](http://www.ncmedsoc.org) and at <http://www.hmosettlements.com>.