



Have You Met Our New Affinity Provider Services Staff?

Lori Vatcher, Director of Provider Services, has worked with major IPAs, PPOs and MSOs (management services organizations) for over 15 years. She spent several years as Director of Provider Services at California Pacific Medical Services Organization, where she was responsible for Brown & Toland network development, credentialing, physician/ staff orientation and the development of their practice management division. Since then, she has worked with WebMD and consulted with some of the nation's largest healthcare systems including Beech Street, Health Source Medical Group (LA), Physician Concepts, SCCIPA and North Shore Health System (NY).

Judith Streeter, Senior Provider Services Representative, has been with PPMSI for several months working with Affinity and other medical groups. She has twenty years experience in IPA and physician office administration. Most recently, she was Director of Operations with San Francisco and San Mateo IPAs, where she managed UM, QI, claims audit, provider relations and HMO liaison functions for the 80,000-member group. Judy Streeter can be reached at **(650) 358-3137**.

Both Ms. Vatcher and Ms. Streeter have been actively involved in managed care for a number of years and have excellent experience working with physician offices and health plans.

PacifiCare Secure Horizons Withdrawing from Alameda & Contra Costa County

- **PacifiCare announced Monday that effective January 1, 2003, they will be withdrawing their Secure Horizons Medicare+Choice plan from Contra Costa and Alameda counties.** This will affect more than 10,000 seniors who will need to find alternative coverage in the next few months. It follows PacifiCare's withdrawal last year from parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.
- **Health Net Seniority Plus will continue with Affinity in 2003**, although they will be withdrawing service with other medical groups in the Livermore area.
- **The Affinity Board of Directors wants to reassure physicians, office staff and patients, that**
 - 1) **THESE CHANGES WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2003.**
 - 2) **We understand current Secure Horizons Affinity members will have the option of enrolling in Health Net Seniority Plus for 2003.**
 - 3) **We will advise Secure Horizons members when they can convert to Health Net Seniority Plus—they will need to wait for the Seniority Plus open enrollment, since mid-year conversions are not permitted by Medicare+Choice plans.**
- **Affinity Seniors are NOT ALONE**—According to Tuesday's San Francisco Chronicle, next year 200,000 Medicare patients will be dropped by U.S. health insurers around the country due to low government reimbursements in selected counties. Although HMOs have dropped more than 2.4 million Medicare patients nationwide since 1998, about one Medicare patient in seven is still covered by an HMO.

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