

# Stratford

Volume 31.09

Healthcare EDI and Practice Management Software

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## stratford notes

The Stratford web site has the latest information about the Stratford program and the company. For example, if you are ordering supplies, click the 'Download' button on the left. All the forms are there.

### Minnesota is the first state to require EDI for all healthcare transactions.

Paper claims and eligibility transactions can no longer be used after Jan 15, 2009. We believe that all states will do the same in the not too distant future. If you have not converted all your billing to EDI, you should begin converting. •

Pay **online** for support and supplies any-time. Just click 'online payment' on our main web site. This is much safer and faster than faxing the information to Stratford—also you will instantly get an email confirmation of the payment:

- 1 Visa or Mastercard
2. PayPal for all others.
3. Google checkout coming soon

*Press the 'download' button on our web site for the supply/support forms you need.*

Most payers accept the **new CMS 1500 form**, the new **UB04 form** and the new **Dental ADA form**. We have them in stock. Stratford has been ready since July 2006.

You need to use **open-item posting**. That is the only way you can create HIPAA compliant claims. Contact Stratford support if you need help.

Integrated **EHR**. You can print the Electronic Health Record using your laser printer for your paper chart/faxing, etc. You can see the patient's allergies and prescriptions in a table on the same

## inside this issue . . . .

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Stratford has nearly **6,000** licensed users

screen. **Prescriptions** are integrated and you can print or fax them. •

For the **fastest Support**: Please put your account number (the one on your monthly statement) at the top of your email. We have almost 6,000 clients now. This will insure the best quality support. •

**You can auto-pay your bill by having credit card information on file.** Please request credit card authorization for monthly payments. If you pay for 10 months, you receive the 11th & 12th months at no charge. •

Stratford supply shipping costs are billed at our cost—no mark up at all. The cost is higher now because of a fuel surcharge. •

**Pre-paid support clients should use email for the fastest response:**

**support@stratfordsoftware.com**

You can find Stratford's Internet server at this address:  
<http://www.stratfordsoftware.com/>

## ***Training Classes*** ***Stratford Software Basic Training***

By phone  
by Appointment only \$295

Call for an appointment at least three days in advance. On-site training with a certified Stratford trainer may be available (*by appointment only*). The cost is \$295 minimum.

### **FROM THE EDI CORNER .....**

**Stratford is fully compliant with the new HIPAA federal law as it applies to software vendors like us.** We are ready to test our ANSI X.12 version 5010-A1 format with any payer. •

Stratford is now approved for v4010-A1 **direct transmission (no clearinghouse required)** to all Medicare contractors, California Denti-cal, Noridian BCBS, New York Department of Health—Medicaid, Mississippi Medicare Part B -BCBSAL, NHIC Medicare: (New England, North and South California), Noridian, United Government Services UGS, DMERC, Wisconsin Medicaid –Wimicaid, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicaid & Medicare, Sante Health Systems, Mid Rogue IPA, THIN, Rhode Island BCBS, Mass Health & Value Options, Medi-Cal / Central Coast Alliance—CA / Santa Cruz CA, Railroad Medicare, Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield/ THIN and Upstate New York. California Medi-Cal, Riverbend Medicare, Blue Shield of California, Blue Cross CA, Sutter Connect – Sacramento CA, Tricare. We have passed all the edits for Florida Medicare Part A & B—but the client must send real data for final approval.

We have recently added more high-speed

internet data lines. You should consider receiving your updates via internet. Why wait 2-7 days and pay for postage and media. Increase your cash flow.

We have contracted with the **CareVU** clearinghouse: you can download their 2 sign-up forms from our web site. Check the ‘download’ page in the EDI section—**CareVU** is in red type. Call Stratford support and start transmitting to **CareVU** quickly. Stratford customers are charged a flat fee per month and can transmit most commercial EDI claims at no per-claim charge. CareVU will print and mail your non-EDI—paper claims for 37 cents. •

### **MORE SUPPORT NOTES**

**Fees for supplies, handling and shipping.** If we send anything to you that is tangible, like a CD, it will make the entire month’s support taxable as well as the CD. This is California regulation 1502 (conflicts with 1501). We do not agree with this, but we are forced to collect the tax. This only applies to California shipments. If you download your updates, you will save the cost of media and the tax. •

**Note: Transmitting Medicare Claims.** Medicare has not approved Internet transmission yet. It is good that you are getting or already have a broadband (DSL/Cable modem) connection. **Do not let your tech person remove your modem.** You still must have a dial-up line. •

**Your clearinghouse may have setup fees and/or charge you for EDI claims,** but Stratford does not. •

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#### **EDI “per-claim” charges**

Stratford does not have any “per-claim” or other charges related to transmitting claims to Medicare or any other payer. We only charge (optional) for providing software support.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: I have never had any problems with my computer. Why should I make a backup?**

**A:** Due to the very nature of database applications, user data can and will at some point become corrupt. Things like not exiting the program correctly, power loss while Stratford is running, and other hardware problems may cause problems that cannot be fixed. You will have to start from scratch if you do not have a valid backup to restore. •

**Q: How do I backup my Stratford software/data? What do you recommend?**

**A:** A general recommendation for our clients is to backup on CD-R or DVD-R at least daily. CDs are cheap and permanent. Keep them as long as you have room for them. Dos version users need to backup the entire \130 folder. Windows version users need to backup the entire \Stratford\ssiw folder.

**NOTE:** Periodically check your backups! It's your responsibility to verify that your files are correctly backed up. If possible, restore the files to a different computer.

**NOTE:** if you use a write-once CD (CD-R), it could be acceptable as a legal document if you use your Stratford program to create an electronic medical record. •

Here is how we backup. Number 1 rule: zip the data. You do not want to copy files directly to a CD/DVD. The reason is that they will automatically be changed to 'read-only'. That will cause problems for you when you restore. Use a zip program that is compatible with 'WinZIP'. Better yet, use WinZIP. DO NOT use a proprietary compression program no matter how great you think it is or what you read in the advertising. Always remember

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Stratford will run your Stratford software related classified ad in our monthly newsletter *free*, upon Stratford approval!  
Fax your ad to us at (650) 344-1073.



that a backup is worthless if you can't restore it. You want anyone to be able to restore it. The newest version of WinZIP will allow you to encrypt your data if you want. DO NOT use tape. There is no 'standard' in tape storage no matter what you may hear. Here at Stratford, we no longer support any tape formats. We cannot help you unless you backup to CD/DVD with a 'zip-compatible' format. DO NOT backup to a hard drive. Hard drives will fail (we guarantee it) and that is the primary reason for making a backup.

**Q: I want a printed manual. How can I get it?**

**A:** To see the manual, press F1 anywhere in the program. To print it, select #7, #2 from the main menu. This will show the manual in 'pdf' format. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat on your computer, get it free here: [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

If you want a 'professionally printed manual', we like the options offered by Kinko's. You can go to [www.kinkos.com](http://www.kinkos.com) and select 'Online printing' then 'File, Print Fedex Kinko's'. There are 3 simple steps. Download a print driver for your computer, print the manual as above. Then select the type of binding, etc. that you would like. You can pick it up at the nearest Kinko's or have it shipped by FedEx. This costs less than 1/2 what we would have to charge if we printed and shipped it. •

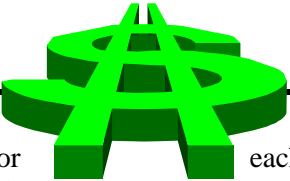
## SOFTWARE SUPPORT NOTES

- 1 Email requests for support get Priority Service.
- 2 If you send an Email with your account number and a description of the problem, your call is given priority over other Emails and faxes and telephone calls.
- 3 Do not call more than one time. The second call places your first call at the bottom of our callback list.

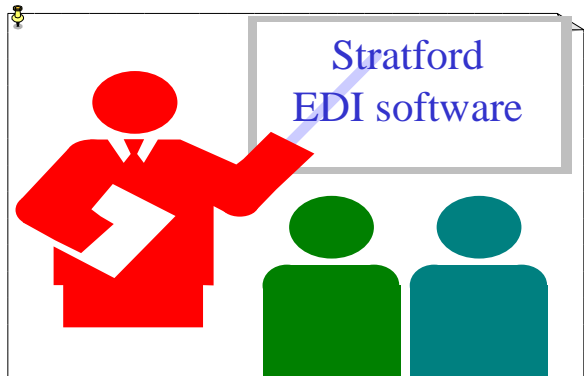
We can receive many support requests in the first few hours each day. It usually is not possible for us to have a technical support person waiting to take your call. If you just call and leave the message "please call", your call is placed at the bottom of the callback list. We must do everything we can to avoid "phone-tag". Hand-written faxes can be almost impossible to read, so please type them whenever possible. Include the best time to call you.

At this time we can deliver support best by email. If you check your email each day, you may find this to be easier than faxing us. We check our email constantly — at least every 2 minutes. We are putting most of our resources into email and other methods that utilize the Internet.

If you download your update instead of using the mail, you will get immediate service, lowest cost and no tax. •

Stratford  will pay you \$100 for you refer who each person\* purchases Stratford Software at full price (\$895). Simply fax or write to give us your referral. **We must receive the referral notice in advance of the sale. We cannot pay for a referral if you notify us after the sale.**

\*Subject to restrictions



## INTERNET RESOURCES

CMS quarterly provider update (QPU): all providers should consider subscribing to the CMS listserv. This enables the provider to be aware of changes that CMS is proposing or making in various programs. To join, go here: <http://cms.hhs.gov/providerupdate/>

Click on the link titled:

JOIN THE CMS-QPU LISTSERV

◆ CMS 'medlearn matters' - information for Medicare providers—latest info straight from the source

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/>

◆ ◆ HIPAA—apply for an NPI ID:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or

1-800-465-3203

◆ government report on identity theft:

<http://www.idtheft.gov/reports/StrategicPlan.pdf>

All newsletters are online at our main website back to 1995. Earlier on request.

Ken's recommended Internet game site:

<http://www.telescopegame.com>

### *Stratford Newsletter*

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