

STRATFORD

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Healthcare EDI and Practice Management Software

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This newsletter and probably newsletters for several more months will concentrate on the new Stratford program which is in the final phases of beta testing.

stratford notes

Our new “Windows-only” program is getting very mature now and has very few “showstoppers.” We have additional people working on the new program now so it is progressing much faster than before.

The database is solid and has not had any significant work for more than 9 months now. We feel confident that the program is very stable.

Microsoft has formally announced the next version of the compiler that we use to create our program. It is due to be released around the first week of July. We expect it to be available for production work before the end of the summer. We have had a beta version at Stratford since early this year and have confirmed that our software is compatible with it and runs without errors. The beta version we have is extremely stable and we feel confident that the final, developer package will be ready for use. If all this is true, we plan to release our long-awaited “Windows version” sometime around the end of summer or in the fall, but, in any event, it should not be delayed any longer than October or November.

If you were one of the early beta-testers and you had some kind of problem that made you want to wait before doing any more testing, now is the time to try out the software again. You will be pleasantly

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Stratford has more than **4,500** licensed users

surprised with the smooth operation. Most of the performance limitations have been addressed and the program operates satisfactorily. If you have a computer with a Pentium III 600 MHz CPU or faster then you will be able to use the program easily. If you have an AMD Athlon 1.2 GHz or faster with 512 Megs of memory then you will have no problems at all with the performance. The new version is a very large, very “heavy” program with many features that will be activated over the coming years. We have plans for activating many enhancements which have been designed such as clinical information capture and integration with hand-held computers. •

Pre-paid support customers may 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 ***SHS Software Basic Training***

In the Stratford Classroom
by Appointment only \$275

Call for class availability at least three days in advance. On-site training with a certified Stratford trainer may be available (*by appointment only*). The cost is \$250. Telephone training is also available (*by appointment only*).

FROM THE EDI CORNER

Correction to a previous notice: we now have our ANSI X.12 v4010 format approved by ProxyMed/IMS, one of the largest, national clearinghouses.

Stratford is a "Gold Star Preferred Vendor" with Administar Federal, a Medicare contractor. •

DO CELL PHONES CAUSE CANCER?

Cell phones have saved many lives but there is a dark side to them also.

Most of us have seen a near accident caused by someone holding a cell phone while driving. This is illegal in some countries and some states here in the USA.

Some people think that cell phones cause cancer if held next to your head.

The obvious way around both of these problems is to have a hands-free way of using the cell phone. Most cell phones

now come with an earphone in the box. In the near future, all manufacturers will probably include the ear phone as well as free replacement (like Nokia does now) in order to avoid liability.

At this time there are no studies that indicate adverse health risks from wireless telephone signals.

For more in-depth information here are some references:

1. MH Repacholi: Health risks from the use of mobile phones. *Toxicol Let* 120:323-331, 2001.
2. H Frumkin, A Jacobson et al: Cellular phones and risk of brain tumors. *CA Cancer J Clin* 51:137-141, 2001.

Here are some related references:

1. Power Lines and Cancer FAQs

<http://www.mcw.edu/gcrc/cop/powerlines-cancer-FAQ/toc.html>

2. Static Electromagnetic Fields and Cancer FAQs

<http://www.mcw.edu/gcrc/cop/static-fields-cancer-FAQ/toc.html>

Whether cell phones cause cancer or not will not be known for a long time. In any event we know now that they can distract you so you should take precautions now. If you don't have a hands free connection in your car you should get one immediately before you and/or members of your family are injured. If you use a cell phone will operating machinery enough times, you will have an accident. It is like operating your computer without making a backup. If you do it long enough you will have a failure and you will probably lose data. •

EDI "per-claim" charges

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

BABY DOMAIN

A few miles south of the Stratford main offices is Sequoia Hospital. It is located in Redwood City, California, home of Oracle and many other software and Internet companies. If parents agree, an infant will have an online identity within a few minutes after their birth. A dot-com startup named namezero.com started the idea. Namezero.com is a domain and web-hosting service provider.

The cyber-baby will have an email address and a personalized domain name.

Sequoia is the first hospital to offer free Internet domains and email addresses for babies. •

COMPUTER UPGRADES

If you been wondering if that old computer of yours will run the new Stratford windows-only software, then you should look at some of the hardware bargains that are available now. As you may already know, the new version is very "heavy" (the latest computer terminology). In other words, it has a lot of new features that require a much more powerful computer than the dos-compiled version. This is true even though they both run best on Windows 9x/NT/2000. There are many graphical elements and the database has been redesigned to make it more usable for custom reporting by people who are not programmers or "techie-types."

An example of good hardware prices is

Stratford will run your Stratford software related classified ad in our monthly newsletter *free*, upon SHS approval! Fax your ad to us at (650) 692-1073.



one we saw at gateway:

http://www.gatewayatwork.com/prod/sb_gtwy6400_proinfo.shtml

This is their "6400 Server". It has support for 2 CPU's, 133MHz memory bus, 64-bit technology, nine drive bays, room for 2GB memory. The processor is a 933MHz Pentium III with 256K Cache. The hard drive is a 9GB Ultra SCSI 7200 RPM. You may not know what all this means, but suffice it to say this is a powerful computer that will work great as a server for the new Stratford program. At the time we looked this up on the Internet the price was \$999 but it was possible to get the price down to \$500 if you selected the \$400 promotion and took one year on-site maintenance instead of three years. To get the promotions you would need to select the "Customize it" options.

This specific deal may not be available when you read this, but you can be sure there will be similar deals by all the major hardware manufacturers such as Dell and Gateway.

Before you buy, you may wish to fax the computer hardware configuration specifications and price to Stratford at (650) 692 1073 and we will look it over for you. •

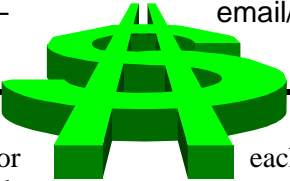
SOFTWARE SUPPORT NOTES

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

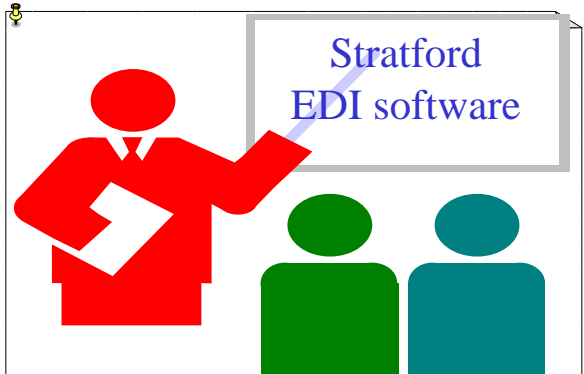
We can receive many support requests in the first few hours each day. It usually is not possible for us to have a technical support person waiting to take your call. If you just call and leave the message "please call", your call is placed at the bottom of the callback list. We must do everything we 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 5 minutes. We are putting most of our resources into email and other methods that utilize the Internet. If you have an ICQ number, we can support it. Let us know.

We are interested in hearing from people who would like to receive support by Internet — email/ICQ, etc.

Stratford  will pay you \$100 for each person* you refer who 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

You will wonder how you ever got along without this tip. Ever need to find a word that rhymes? Well, don't worry, here is a site that will give you just what you need and more.

<http://www.rhymezone.com/>

You can get rhymes, synonyms, antonyms, definitions, related words, similar sounding words, homophones, match consonants only, phrases, similar spellings, pictures, search for the word in Shakespeare, search for quotations. If you don't know what any of these things are, you can look them up also.

Stratford Newsletter

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