

Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation www.floridainsurancereceiver.org

## NOTICE TO MEDICAL PROVIDERS --- AUGUST 10, 2007

## REGARDING THE LIQUIDATION OF SUNCOAST PHYSICIANS HEALTH PLAN, INC.

SunCoast Physicians Health Plan, Inc., was a provider-sponsored health maintenance organization which provided health care coverage to approximately 700 Medicare subscribers. On August 10, 2007, SunCoast Physicians Health Plan, Inc., ("SunCoast") was placed in receivership for purposes of liquidation by the Second Judicial Circuit Court (the "Court") in Tallahassee, Florida. The Florida Department of Financial Services is the court appointed Receiver of SunCoast. Medicare contracts and premiums are administered through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS").

SunCoast has been ordered liquidated effective August 10, 2007. The SunCoast subscriber's health care coverage with SunCoast is cancelled as of 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, August 11, 2007. As a Medicare member, however, CMS has arranged for the former SunCoast subscribers to receive continued health care coverage through another health maintenance organization — Humana Medical Plan Inc.'s MA-PD plan, Humana Gold Plus ("Humana"). Humana has mailed letters to the SunCoast subscribers explaining how the continued health care coverage with Humana will work and the subscriber's other Medicare options. The Receiver is also mailing letters to the subscribers notifying them of the receivership process.

The Receiver has been informed that all medical authorizations issued to or for the SunCoast subscribers through August 13, 2007, will be honored by Humana. The letter from Humana also contains specific instructions for the subscribers regarding their continued use of the SunCoast medical provider network.

MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED ON AND AFTER AUGUST 1, 2007: All claims for medical services provided to a former SunCoast subscriber on and after August 1, 2007 are the responsibility of Humana. You may receive additional information on these matters from CMS or Humana in the future.

**PLEASE NOTE**: Under Section 641.315, Florida Statutes, subscribers of a health maintenance organization are not liable to any provider of health care services for any services covered by the health maintenance organization. Additionally, health care providers and their representatives are prohibited from attempting to collect payment from the health maintenance organization subscribers for such services. Federal law also requires providers to indemnify Medicare beneficiaries from liability for payment of fees that are SunCoast's legal obligation to pay. See 42 CFR 422.504(g)(1). If you are currently billing, or in any other manner attempting to collect payment from SunCoast subscribers for any medical services, you are advised to immediately cease such activity. You should also

immediately inform any collection agency you might use of this law and require that it also cease any such collection activity.

**PRE-LIQUIDATION CLAIMS**: Claims for unpaid services or goods provided to or on behalf of the SunCoast subscribers prior to August 1, 2007 must be filed with the Receiver on the Receiver's Proof of Claim Form in order to be considered for payment. At a later date, the Receiver will provide additional instructions to all known subscribers, medical providers, and other creditors of SunCoast regarding the filing process. The deadline for filing claims in the SunCoast receivership proceeding is 11:59 p.m. on August 11, 2008.

The procedure for the filing and evaluation of claims in a receivership is set out in Part I, Chapter 631, Florida Statutes. Assuming there are sufficient assets in the receivership, the Receiver will evaluate claims in order of their priority as set out in Section 631.271, Florida Statutes. This statute establishes a system of priorities in paying claims. When the evaluation process has been completed, the Receiver will file a report with the Court setting out our recommendations as to the amounts, if any, which should be allowed on each of the claims evaluated. Notice of the Receiver's recommendations and the deadline for filing any objections to the recommendations will then be provided to the claimants. It is unlikely that claimants will receive any correspondence or other communication from the Receiver until that time unless the Receiver has questions regarding the claim which has been filed. This is because the Receiver is trying to minimize the claims' processing costs in order to maximize potential distribution to the claimants.

During the claims evaluation period, the Receiver also commences litigation and/or takes whatever other action is necessary to collect and maximize the assets of the receivership estate. Please note: it may be several years before distributions, if any, are made in this receivership. Distributions of assets are made on a pro rata basis in accordance with the priority of claims which is set out in Section 631.271, Florida Statutes. Those whose claims fall into lower priorities are paid only if there is money left after paying the higher priority claims. It is too early in the receivership process for the Receiver to provide any estimate as to the timing and/or the pro rata percentage of the distributions, if any, which may be made in this receivership.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

<u>For services after August 1, 2007:</u> For information relating to medical services provided on and after August 1, 2007, please contact Humana at the following phone numbers:

## Humana Gold Plus:

For Subscribers and Providers: Member Services at 800-819-6931

<u>For Medicare information:</u> If you need more information regarding Medicare, please visit <u>www.medicare.gov</u> or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

<u>For Receivership information:</u> Information regarding the receivership of SunCoast, including copies of all relevant court orders, is available on the Receiver's website, <u>www.floridainsurancereceiver.org.</u>
You may also call the Florida Department of Financial Services at 1-800-882-3054.

We appreciate your cooperation in these matters.