

## **Michigan City Couple Harmed By Medicare Mess Ups**

**By Woodrow Wilcox**

Two clients of this agency were harmed financially by “Medicare Mess-ups”. Here is the story of their plight.

The husband asked our office to investigate a bill for \$2,209.38 with a DATE OF SERVICE of April 9, 2008. I checked and learned that the client’s insurance company never got this claim. But, the insurance company did get a claim on a bill for \$4,173.38 with a DATE OF SERVICE of April 8, 2008.

But, the client was in the hospital for only one day for tests. He was not in the hospital for two days – just a few hours on one day. So, one of the bills must be erroneous. If the amounts matched but the dates differed, I would suspect that someone simply mistyped a date.

This is still being investigated. It should be. How can a hospital generate two bills with such a wide discrepancy in amounts for service on two days when the patient got service on only one day? Are you starting to understand why I keep saying and writing that the Medicare system is not working for senior citizens?

The wife had a different problem. Her bill was given to a collection agency before the claim was made to Medicare and the Medicare supplemental insurance company. How could that happen? Well, in this case the doctors/owners/managers of a medical testing company failed to file National Provider Information (NPI) forms with Medicare properly. Until Medicare gets those forms, the medical testing company can not file any claim with Medicare. If a claim is not filed with Medicare, it can never be processed by a Medicare supplemental insurance company.

The management of the medical testing company sent the woman’s bill to a collection agency without ever sending a bill to the woman, Medicare, or the woman’s Medicare supplemental insurance company. I talked with a person at the billing firm who admitted that this was wrong and agreed to recall the bill from the collection agency.

The billing company is now waiting for the owners/managers of the medical testing company to properly file NPI documents with Medicare before any more attempts to collect on the bill are made.

In past articles, I have written of many problems with the Medicare system which harm senior citizens. I have written about the problems of senior citizen veterans and their frustrations with mistakes between Medicare and VA services and charges, too. If the federal Medicare system is saturated with problems, what will all medical service be like if the federal government takes over all health care?

Written and distributed by Woodrow Wilcox.