

Happy Holidays!

Need holiday staff? Give us a call. 303-980-1000. Medical Match is a Colorado medical staffing service, providing direct hire, contract personnel, and background searching services. For your convenience, here's a copy of the monthly newsletter which is also on-line: www.medicalmatch.net

Health Savings Account, HSA

December 2003, health savings account legislation was signed into law. **The account is a tax-sheltered savings similar to an IRA, but earmarked for medical expenses.** In addition, the law requires you to carry a low-cost, high deductible health insurance policy to cover larger expenses. Deposits can be made by an individual, employer, or others, can be withdrawn by check or debit card, and are 100% tax deductible. Left-over money each year remains in the account and continues to grow with interest. The HSA stays with the employee if he leaves an employer. In 2004, the annual contribution has been \$2600 for individuals: \$5150 for families.

HSA accounts can be opened through insurance brokers and banks. Check the government website for details, any law changes, and transactions after age 65. www.treas.gov. Office of Public Affairs.

Illegal Script Writing Is A Felony

Stealing and writing illegal prescriptions is fraud, and fraud is a felony. Conviction can result in fines, jail time, loss of licenses, posting on the Medicare exclusion list, www.oig.hhs.gov, and public identification in Colorado Criminal Court records.

PREVENTING illegal script writing begins by becoming pro-active. Start with background checks on new and current staff. Write your policies in the employee handbook and announce, "*Thefts will be reported and prosecuted.*" As with your checkbook, take obvious precautions. Limit accessibility to prescription pads, lock up the signature stamps, and never pre-sign scripts. Number and track the pads. By keeping your staff alert, stealing from your office becomes difficult.

PROSECUTE If illegal script writing is discovered, gather your evidence and witnesses. Alert your lawyer, and follow the advice. Contact the local police department and fill out the report. Your conscientious effort will take a little time. The result: you will help keep thieves out of your office and the medical community.

Useful Websites

US Food and Drug Administration, Drug/food interactions, equip updates www.fda.gov.
Herb Directory, Descriptions and remedies www.holistic-online.com.
Rocky Mt. Poison and Drug Center, Brochures, alerts www.rmpdc.org.
Medline, National health information network www.nlm.nih/medlineplus.
National Library of Medicine, The world's largest medical library www.nlm.nih.gov/nlmhome.html.

Health Quotables...

I told my doctor I get very tired when I go on a diet, so he gave me pep pills. Now I eat faster. Joe E. Lewis

A hospital bed is a parked taxi with the meter running Groucho Marx

Researchers at Yale found a connection between brain cancer and the work environment.

The #1 most dangerous job for developing brain cancer? Plutonium hat model. Jimmy Fallon

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals, dying of nothing. Redd Foxx

Always carry a flagon of whisky in case of snakebite and, furthermore, carry a small snake. WC Fields

A Joyous New Year from the Medical Match Staff!