



Respironics' net climbs

Respironics Inc. reported a 17 percent boost in second-quarter income to \$2.1 million, or 24 cents a share, on sales of \$18.6 million. The results compare with income of \$1.8 million, or 20 cents a share, on sales of \$17.2 million, in the year-ago quarter. Respironics said the gains were achieved despite the closure of its BagEasy line of resuscitators during the second quarter. The closure resulted in a \$2 million pre-tax charge that left net income for this year's first half 11 percent down from the 1993 midpoint, the company said.

Mortgage rates mixed

Thirty-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaged 6.97 percent this week, unchanged from last week, according to a survey by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. On one-year adjustable rate mortgages, lenders were asking an average initial rate of 4.12 percent, down from 4.16 percent last week. Fifteen-year mortgages averaged 6.46 percent this week, down from 6.47 percent a week earlier.

Dinner honors Williams

United Steelworkers President Lynn R. Williams and Secretary-Treasurer Edgar L. Ball, who are retiring March 1, will be honored at a testimonial dinner at 6:30 Saturday at the Pittsburgh Hyatt Hotel. Speakers include Union National President of the

Fraudulent Medicare claims probe involves three Robinson companies

By Mike BUCSKO
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Agents from the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service searched three Robinson businesses yesterday in an investigation of fraudulent Medicare billing for medical supplies.

Agents spent the day at the offices of Omega Reimbursement Concepts Inc. on Vista Park Drive and Omni-Care Medical Suppliers Inc. and Glenbrook Healthcare Systems Inc., both in Penn Center West, said Special Agent Thomas Noschese, spokesman for the Pittsburgh FBI office.

A five-page search warrant, approved yesterday by U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge Robert Mitchell, gave the agents broad authority to seize virtually all the business, financial and tax records of those companies.

The search focused on records pertaining to any business by the companies with Medicare carriers or with the federal Health Care Financing Administration,

The investigation concerns laws that govern mail fraud, wire fraud and false claims for government benefits.

which administers the Medicare program. The companies provide a wide variety of medical supplies, including surgical wound care kits and a deodorizer called Orchid Fresh II that is used for medical purposes, Noschese said.

Omega Reimbursement Concepts laid off 100 of its 150 employees this week, citing as a reason "a change in reimbursement amounts from Blue Shield of Pennsylvania. Terron Lindholme, the company's sales

director, said Wednesday that the change in reimbursement for the surgical wound kits meant the company would receive less in reimbursement than its billing cost.

Lindholme was among five people named in the search warrant as having interests in the companies. The warrant said the agents could seize records from Jan. 1, 1991, to the present of any corporation or partnership owned or controlled by Hugh McElwain, Anthony Piwowarczyk, Paul Vanderweil, Vladimir A. Sklarov and Lindholme.

Noschese said investigators were unsure of the relationship of the men to the companies and hoped to "solidify" the roles with information from documents collected in the search.

The investigation concerns federal laws that govern mail fraud, wire fraud and false claims for government benefits, Noschese said. He declined to comment further.

Staff writer Jim McKay contributed to this report.