

## **Internal Medicine Coding Alert**

### **News Brief: Congress Increases Frequency of Covered Pap Smears and Pelvic Exams**

The U.S. Congress recently passed legislation that increases the frequency of Pap smear tests (HCPCS code Q0091) and pelvic/clinical breast examinations (G0101) covered by Medicare to every two years for women who are at low risk of developing cervical or vaginal cancer. Current policy covers these tests only every three years. The change is part of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits, Improvements and Protection Act (H.R. 5661), which was passed on Dec. 21, 2000, and goes into effect on July 1, 2001.