

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Use This Incident-To Checklist to Breathe Easier During an Audit

You don't need to second-guess the way you bill your NP's services anymore

Pin down Medicare's criteria for billing your nurse practitioner's (NP) services "incident-to" your internist - and you can nab an extra 15 percent in reimbursement on each claim.

The basic guidelines for billing Medicare under the incident-to provision are:

1. Your NP must be the physician's employee or leased employee;
2. The services are within the NP's scope of practice;
3. The NP must provide the services in a private office setting;
4. The physician must perform the initial visit and subsequent established visits for the patient's acute new problems;
5. The physician must provide direct personal supervision of the NP's services to the patient; and
6. The physician must have an active part in the patient's ongoing care.

Checklist provided by **Carol Pohlig, BSN, RN, CPC**, a senior coding and education specialist at the University of Pennsylvania department of medicine in Philadelphia; and **Mary Falbo, MBA, CPC**, president of Millennium Healthcare Consulting Inc. in Lansdale, Pa.