

## Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

### Fix Errors Before They Derail Your DMERC Claims

#### Be sure to inform Medicare beneficiaries of the supplier standards

Dispensing vision supplies in your office can be convenient for your patients and profitable for your practice--if you stay on top of how your DMERC wants its claims filled out.

Check your CMS-1500 form for these common errors that lead to DMERC denials, says **Charles Wimbish, OD**, president of Wimbish Consulting Group in Martinsville, Va:

- **Item 11** (Insured's policy group or FECA number): If Medicare is the primary insurance, enter -NONE.-
- **Item 14** (Date of current illness [first symptom]): Enter the date of the cataract surgery.
- **Items 17** (Name of referring physician or other source) and 17a (ID number of referring physician): Enter the name and unique physician identification number (UPIN) of the doctor who prescribed the lenses.
- **Item 19** (Reserved for local use): Enter the date of the surgery, and which eye was operated on.
- **Item 21** (Diagnosis or nature of illness or injury): For post-cataract glasses, the ICD-9 code in most cases will be V43.1 (Organ or tissue replaced by other means; lens [pseudophakia]).
- **Item 24a** (Date of service): Enter the date you dispense the glasses. DMERC Palmetto warns, -Billing for items prior to receipt by the beneficiary may be considered fraudulent billing.-
- **Item 24b** (Place of service): The POS should be where the beneficiary is residing, not the office. If the patient lives at home, the POS would be 12 (home), not 11 (office).
- **Item 33** (Physician's billing name, address -): Enter your information here, along with the 10-digit NSC number you were issued by the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC). Your name and address also go in Item 32 (Name and address of facility where services were rendered).
- **Don't miss:** You must also inform the Medicare beneficiary of the CMS DMEPOS Supplier Standards, Wimbish says. The NSC provides forms you can download to give to your patients.

Visit [www.palmettogba.com](http://www.palmettogba.com) and click the -National Supplier Clearinghouse- link under -Other Partners.-