

## Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

### Reader Questions: Don't Try Documentation Time Travel

**Question:** This past July we billed 99213 for an office visit. Now, the patient's insurance company wants to see the OD's documentation for the visit. Because the OD either lost the notes or did not document the E/M, she says she can document it now. Can she legally do that?

Louisiana Subscriber

**Answer:** Dictating the medical note and then submitting it as though the OD performed the documentation on the actual date of service would be fraudulent. Your optometrist should document in the medical chart that she either lost the notes or failed to record the office visit. Then, the optometrist should redictate the visit, clearly indicating that this is a late entry.

Advice for Reader Questions and You Be the Expert contributed by **David Gibson, OD, FAAO**, practicing optometrist in Lubbock, Texas; and **Charles Wimbish, OD**, president of Wimbish Consulting Group in Martinsville, Va.