

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### 2 Key Global Period Tips

Confused about global periods? You're not alone. **Carol Pohlig**, a senior coding and education specialist at the **University of Pennsylvania's** department of medicine in Philadelphia offers a couple of tips:

1) **Know who is bound to the global period.** Many physicians, such as cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons, don't realize that the global period applies to every doctor in the same group, says Pohlig.

**Example #1:** A surgeon performs a coronary artery bypass graft. The cardiologists aren't bound by the global periods, since they're not usually under the same tax ID. So they can report their services without a modifier.

**Example #2:** An electrophysiologist inserts an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) or pacemaker. If the general cardiologist, who manages the patient's hypertension, sees the patient during the global, you'll need a modifier. This is because the electrophysiologist and general cardiologist will usually report under the same tax ID, says Pohlig.

2) **Know your carrier's modifier 24 policies.** Some Part B carriers won't recognize the 24 modifier (E/M by same physician during post-op period) during the same hospitalization where the procedure occurred, says Pohlig. Those carriers will only recognize the 24 modifier after the patient is discharged for office visits or subsequent hospitalizations.