

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

BEWARE OUT-OF-STATE PRESCRIPTIONS

Beware of writing a prescription for a patient living in another state, especially if you're not licensed in the patient's state. You could be opening up a massive can of worms, warns attorney **Wayne Miller**. "Really, doctors have to look both at the jurisdiction they're licensed in and the jurisdiction they're prescribing in," he notes.

State laws may differ on whether a doctor can issue a refill for patients whom she's seen for years without seeing the patient once again, notes attorney **Robert Markette**. But if a patient has moved to another state and keeps insisting on receiving a prescription refill from his old doctor, "the doctor has to wonder why the patient hasn't found a local doctor." It becomes less likely that he knows "for a fact you need this medication."