

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

CERT Program Not Consistent, OIG Says

If the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing auditor didn't do a good job of following up with you about its documentation requests, then you're not alone.

CERT contractor **AdvanceMed** didn't always follow up via phone in many cases if you failed to send in medical records after the first request, complains the **HHS Office of Inspector General**. But AdvanceMed did a better job of completing quality assurance reviews properly than it did the last time the OIG looked at it.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** could be doing a better job of making sure that the CERT program is consistent, the OIG adds in its report on the program (A-03-05-00006). The OIG recommended that CMS centralize the management of the CERT program and make sure the sampling periods for CERT audits are the same every time.