

## **Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert**

### **CMS Struggling To Fix PECOS System**

The Provider Enrollment and Chain/Ownership System, implemented November 2003, isn't working as well for Part B providers as for Part A ones, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** finally admitted. Physicians and others are facing substantial waits for enrollment due to incompatibilities with carrier systems and a major backlog of applications.

CMS has named an emergency team to formulate solutions to the problems. The agency is giving carriers more funds to hire temporary staff, and special temporary teams at CMS are in daily contact with the carriers about PECOS. The carriers also have changed their enrollment systems to identify problems earlier and streamline the entire process.