

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Congress Pays for SARS, Smallpox

The \$79 billion supplemental spending bill for fiscal year 2003 includes \$2.23 billion for first responders such as police, fire and medical personnel. It also includes \$100 million to help state and local governments to vaccinate health workers and first responders against smallpox. And it allocates \$42 million to a compensation program for vaccinees who suffer adverse effects.

The bill also includes \$16 million for research into severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS.