

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

### **Coverage Patchwork Caused By CMS Overwork**

The fact that carriers have clashing policies for procedures such as ESWT comes from the fact that CMS is overstretched, says osteopath and consultant **Douglas Jorgensen** with **Jorgensen Consulting** in Manchester, ME. Medicare is leaving more and more decisions to the carriers, resulting in confusion, such as when carriers give wrong answers 90 percent of the time according to a recent GAO survey. (See PBI, Vol. 5, no. 30, p. 230.)

This scenario leaves providers exposed if they follow a carrier's teachings and then later a federal audit decides they billed incorrectly, Jorgensen complains. Also, having different coverage in different states means beneficiaries who travel to different states in the summer and winter may have coverage for a treatment for only half the year, Jorgensen points out.