

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Feds May Look Into Podiatrists' Nail Debridement Claims

Medicare could save \$285 million per year if it cracked down on chiropractors billing for services that don't meet requirements, according to the **HHS Office of Inspector General**. In particular, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** should keep chiropractors from billing for non-covered maintenance services, which accounted for \$186 million in unallowed payments in 2001.

The OIG published its 2006 Red Book, a compilation of recommendations that could save Medicare and other programs money. Other recommendations included cracking down on podiatrists' inappropriate nail debridement services, encouraging the carriers to impose a "least costly alternative" policy on Lupron, and reviewing Part B therapy services.