

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

FRAUD & ABUSE: Your Patients Are Watching You

If your explanation-of-benefits forms look suspicious to some of your patients, don't be surprised if they call in the feds.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Senior Medicare Patrol Projects, an HHS initiative designed to educate Medicare beneficiaries on ways to weed out fraud and abuse in federal healthcare programs, is still going strong. According to the HHS Office of Inspector General, nearly 1.1 million beneficiaries have been trained.

Seniors educated under the project have made more than 23,000 complaints, about one-tenth of which were taken up by investigative agencies. In total, closed investigations have racked up more than \$80 million for Medicare and other payers.

To see the report, go to <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-03-00120.pdf>.