

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### How To Cope With Multiple Imaging Discount

If you perform more than one imaging scan on "contiguous" body parts, you'll have a 25-percent reduction on each additional scan this year--and 50 percent next year.

**Jeff Fulkerson**, senior certified coder in the radiology department of **Emory Health Care** in Stockbridge, GA offers a couple of suggestions for coping with the multiple imaging discount:

**Invest in a new scanner.** If you're using older equipment, it's time to upgrade. "The newer machines produce a better film in less time." You'll save money in the long run by wasting less time, Fulkerson explains.

**Review your scanner utilization.** Check whether the scanner is being used to capacity each day, Fulkerson also urges.

Some providers may try to get around the multiple-imaging reduction by performing multiple scans on different days. But "manipulating the system" in this way can cause more problems than it solves, insists **Cheryl Schad**, owner of **Schad Medical Management** in Mullica Hill, NJ.

"This is exactly the kind of intentional evasion that the OIG will be looking for," Schad adds