

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

In other news ...

- CMS is lining up its interest rate with what private consumers pay.

Effective Oct. 22, CMS wants Medicare contractors to apply a 10.875 percent interest rate to all overpayments and underpayments to match the Treasury's fixed rate, according to Change Request 6651 and Transmittal 160 published on Oct. 15.

Why: Regulation 42 CFR Section 405.378 allows Medicare to assess interest at whichever rate is higher -- the current value of funds (which is 3 percent for 2009) or the Department of the Treasury's rate for private consumers.

Read the transmittal at www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R160FM.pdf.

- **Brush up on your ICD-9-CM coding with a free online course from intermediary Cahaba GBA** at www.cahabagba.com/rhhi/education -- select "Online Courses."

New codes take effect Oct. 1 for episodes with dates of service on or after that dates.

You'll find the new and deleted codes online at www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1770CP.pdf.

Cahaba also offers courses on enrollment, Medicare coding, and secondary payer status on its Web site.