

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Lagging On HIPAA Will Soon Hit Providers Where It Hurts

Delayed payments slated to go into effect this July

It's not quite sink or swim time, but it's getting close.

If you're still not submitting electronic claims in compliance with the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act, then you'll likely be waiting quite a bit longer to get paid.

That's the bottom line from a Feb. 27 program transmittal (change request 2981), which states that the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** will be tweaking its HIPAA contingency plan to push providers to get in line "as soon as possible."

Effective July 1 -- with an implementation date of July 6 -- all claims received in pre-HIPAA format will be waiting at least 27 days for reimbursement, while those claims in compliance will be eligible for payment in half that time.

To see the notice, go to: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R114CP.pdf