

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Mark Your Calendar for New HIPAA Regulations

The **Department of Health and Human Services** revealed its semiannual regulatory agenda in the June 28 issue of the Federal Register, which covers all rules on deck for review. And according to a release from **Phoenix Health Systems**, here are the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations in your future:

November 2004: The Standard Unique National Health Plan Identifier proposed rule would implement a standard identifier for health plans that process and pay certain electronic health care transactions.

Claims Attachments Standard: To help establish medical necessity, this rule proposes an electronic standard for claims attachments for clinical data, in addition to data contained in the claims standard.

February and March 2005: Proposed revisions of the HIPAA electronic transactions and code sets standards, as well as proposed replacements for specific code sets.

September 2006: Two years late, this final rule would implement the requirements for certain electronic submissions of Medicare claims as well as the conditions for granting a waiver for these requirements.

TBA: Outline for enforcing HIPAA compliance through civil monetary penalties.