

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### Medicare Prescription Drugs: SENATE FINANCE PRODUCES BIPARTISAN Rx PLAN

**Senate Finance Committee** Chairman **Chuck Grassley** (R-Iowa) and ranking Democrat Max Baucus (D-Mont.) unveiled a Medicare drug package June 5 and hoped to gain panel approval of the legislation June 12.

Under the plan, all beneficiaries who voluntarily signed up would get an equal drug benefit. In traditional Medicare, private plans would compete to provide drug-only coverage. In any area where two private drug-only plans did not materialize, the federal government would provide guaranteed federal fallback coverage through a contractor.