

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

More Tips On Handling The 9-Day Payment Freeze

Your cash flow will be hit hard in late September, when Medicare puts the brakes on payments for nine days, say experts.

The payment hold -will also throw off billing timing, referrals to collections, notices to patients concerning outstanding bills, etc.,- says **Quinten Buechner**, president of **ProActive Consultants** in Cumberland, WI.

Just how much the pay suspension will affect your cash flow depends on your specialty, says **Marvel Hammer**, owner of **MJH Consulting** in Denver. Specialties such as geriatrics, nephrology, primary care and general internal medicine will be the most affected by the suspension. She and Buechner offer four tips for dealing with the crisis:

- **Expedite your bills.** -Try to speed up your billing process and get as many [Medicare claims] as possible paid before the deadline,- advises Buechner.

- **Try to delay your September accounts payable.** Contact an account representative and -make arrangements for delay of payment of any large account,- Hammer says.

- **Slow your spending.** If your practice funds are low already, make sure you only spend when necessary until the pay suspension ends, says Buechner.

- **Seek a bank loan.** -This would at least help you cover large outlays, e.g., payroll, which may be due during[the suspension],- Hammer says.