

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

OIG Excludes 200 per Month

Heads up, physicians. The HHS Office of Inspector General is out for blood.

In its latest semiannual report, the OIG tallied its fraud-fighting stats for the first six months of its fiscal year. Among the results:

1. 1,241 exclusions from federal healthcare programs - an average rate of about 200 per month,
2. 320 convictions for fraud-related misdeeds,
3. 106 new civil actions, and
4. \$187 million collected from providers targeted in fraud investigations.

In another document, its Red Book that tallies new and old recommendations, the OIG urges Medicare to recover overpayments and prevent inappropriate payments for nail debridement services, which it says cost Medicare \$96.8 million per year in inappropriate services and related podiatry claims.