

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

OIG Will Be Busy In 2005

The **HHS Office of Inspector General's** to-do list in 2005 could be lengthy - and the money should be there to allow it to cross off every item, Sens. **Chuck Grassley** (R-IA) and **Max Baucus** (D-MT) wrote to Senate appropriators in a Sept. 14 letter. Among other hot spots, the OIG will spend next year surveying prices of Medicare drugs, examining the drugs included in the end-stage renal disease composite rate and studying the effect of Medicare payment rates on hematology and oncology drugs. The OIG also will look into safe harbors for electronic prescriptions.