

## **Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert**

### **Physician Notes: Button Up Those E/M Claims, CMS Tells Providers**

**Plus: Wrong NPI type might trigger payer edits.**

Assigning E/M levels willy-nilly? You might be one of the providers that CMS found who erroneously assigned the wrong E/M code to their claims, causing billions in inappropriate Medicare payments.

According to a new MLN Matters fact sheet, Medicare providers billed about \$28 billion in E/M services between April 2009 and May 2010, but CMS found that "8.4 percent of those E/M payments were identified as being billed at the wrong code level--either too high or too low," the document states.

To end providers' confusion about E/M billing, CMS offers several helpful tips on assigning the appropriate E/M level in its new fact sheet, which you can access at

[www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Evaluation\\_Management\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_ICN905363.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Evaluation_Management_Fact_Sheet_ICN905363.pdf).