

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: E/M Upcoding Charge Garners Hefty Settlement for Physician Practice

A recent Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement shows that the feds take overbilling on E/M services claims very seriously.

El Paso Ear, Nose & Throat Associates (EPENT) settled its alleged False Claims Act (FCA) violations for purportedly submitting upcoded evaluation and management (E/M) services claims to Medicare and other federal health programs, a DOJ release says. EPENT agreed to pay DOJ \$750,000 to settle the FCA violations.



"Providers who line their pockets by over-billing for medical care increase medical costs for all of us and drain critical funds from Medicare and other government health programs," warns U.S. Attorney **Ashley C. Hoff** in the DOJ release. "We will continue to hold accountable medical professionals who undermine our healthcare system by over-billing for care."