

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

PHYSICIAN NOTES: Make a Mistake on Paper Claim Form? Start Over Rather Than 'Whiting Out' the Error, One Carrier Says

Plus: OIG reveals 108 pages of recommendations that havent been implemented.

Practices submitting paper claims or appeals arent doing themselves any favors by using liquid correction fluid to fix their mistakes, according to a June 3 notification from National Government Services (NGS), a Medicare payer in 22 states.

If the payer finds that your form is not readable, your claim could be delayed, the carrier notes.

Do not modify the [CMS-1500] form, NGS says. Do not use a stamp, stickers, or write messages across the face of the claim form, (e.g., RESUBMITTAL, EOB attached, etc.) Enclose a separate note. Do not use whiteout for corrections or make any marking that crosses multiple items.

This directive goes against the habits of many coders, who customarily write Resubmittal or other terms on their claim forms.

To read the NGS guidance, visit

www.ngsmedicare.com/NGSMedicare/PartB/EducationandSupport/ToolsandMaterials/instructions0805.aspx.