

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

PHYSICIAN NOTES: MedPAC Recommends 1 Percent Physician Payment Update for 2011

Plus: Recovery audit contractors post additional target areas that they plan to review going forward.

On Jan. 15, MedPAC made its eagerly awaited recommendations for 2011 Medicare payment updates, but the news wasn't particularly exciting for physician practices.

MedPAC (the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission) recommends that "the Congress should update physician payments for physician services in 2011 by 1.0 percent." The MedPAC vote simply constitutes a recommendation and is not law. In addition, physician practices remain hopeful that Congress will create a more substantial payment fix before 2011.

The MedPAC report is available at www.medpac.gov/documents/Voted%20Recs.01.pdf.