

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: Part B Deductibles Inch Higher

After two years of Part B deductibles that stood at \$147.00, CMS has decided to have Medicare beneficiaries pay a bit more for their care. The Part B annual deductible for 2016 will be \$166.00, CMS announced on Nov. 10.

"Our goal is to keep Medicare Part B premiums affordable, said CMS Acting Administrator **Andy Slavitt** in a statement. "Affordability for Medicare enrollees is a key goal of our work building a health care system that delivers better care and spends health care dollars more wisely."

The Part A deductible will increase by \$28.00 next year, from the current amount of \$1,260 to \$1,288, CMS announced. For beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, the daily coinsurance for days 61 through 90 in a benefit period will be \$161.00 in 2016, compared to \$157.50 in 2015, the agency said.