

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### Quality Organizations Have Their Own Quality Problems

Who watches the watchers? That's what Sen. **Chuck Grassley** (R-IA) wants to know.

The influential chairman of the **Senate Finance Committee** has written a blistering letter to the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** asking for more oversight of the Quality Improvement Organizations. The QIOs are supposed to be helping you to improve your quality--but instead they've been helping themselves.

Grassley's investigation of QIOs found excessive compensation for board members, questionable travel to "retreats" and potential conflicts of interest with providers. But even worse, Grassley cites recent articles saying the QIOs aren't all that effective at improving quality.

CMS should change how it pays QIOs to reward quality, and should introduce more competition into the QIO contracting process, says Grassley.