

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Respond To CERT Requests Or Face Claims Denials

Last year's 8 percent non-response rate to Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) record requests dropped to only 1 percent in 2004, thanks to strong-arm tactics from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**. Now if you don't reply, you risk being sent to the **HHS Office of Inspector General** - and your claim risks denial.

CERT contractor **AdvanceMed** chooses about 28,000 claims per year for review to see whether providers are billing (and Medicare contractors are paying) correctly, explained **Wayne Steiner**, CERT coordinator for Part B carrier **HGSAdministrators**.