

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### Same Diagnosis OK With -25 Modifier

If you're billing an evaluation and management visit on the same day as another service, you don't have to list a separate diagnosis for the E/M as long as you attach the -25 modifier, contends **Mary Brown** with **OrthoWest** in Omaha, NE.

"The old school was you had to have a separate diagnosis," says Brown. This requirement vexed coders, but then the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** clarified a couple of years ago that an E/M code could have the same diagnosis as another code, as long as you used the -25 modifier to clarify that the E/M represents a separately identifiable service.