

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Two At A Time Doesn't Count As 'Continuous,' Court Rules

An anesthesiologist who routinely billed for sedation and nerve-block services for two patients at the same time violated the -continuous presence- requirement of the anesthesia codes, ruled the **U.S. District Court for New Jersey**.

That decision came in response to anesthesiologist **Kenneth Zahl-s** appeal of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruling that he owed thousands to Medicare. Anesthesiologists in Zahl's practice would supervise two patients at once--one received sedation and nerve block in the pre-operative area; the other received these services in the operating room.