

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

What If An Outside Entity Changes Your Documentation?

If another entity that you deal with changes your documentation, your responsibilities may be slightly different than if an employee makes the changes.

For example, suppose a durable medical equipment provider alters Certificates of Medical Necessity your doctor has signed - or a contractor changes some files somehow.

The main thing is to protect your practice from fraud charges, says attorney **Joan Roediger** with **Obermayer Maxwell & Hippel** in Philadelphia. You should keep copies of all forms your doctor signs in the patient's chart, so you can compare them to the version you get back. If you suspect that an outside entity has been altering your documentation, you should alert the **HHS Office of Inspector General**, say attorneys.