

## Health Information Compliance Alert

### Coding Compliance: CALL FOR BACKUP WHEN IT'S TIME TO AUDIT

Sometimes a compliance officer can be his own worst enemy especially when it comes to coding compliance audits.

"Do not audit cases yourself," emphasizes **Sue Prophet**, director of coding policy and compliance for the **American Health Information Management Association**. Compliance officers "try to do this all the time," but those who aren't fluid in code sets language and virtually none of them are "cause all sorts of problems," Prophet explains.

Seek out a coding expert, Prophet counsels. Either contract with an outside consultant or, if the facility is large enough, use available in-house expertise.