



## THE RAC ATTACK IS BACK!!

According to industry experts, RAC and Carrier audits are expected to expand significantly in 2009. Physicians and other Part B providers will begin receiving correspondence from local recovery audit contractors (RACs) by June at the latest according to a RAC project officer in CMS's Office of Financial Management.

Correspondence can mean either requests for medical records or demand letters for overpayments. Knowing your risks before you're targeted is critical to the defense of your organization.

As part of these enhanced efforts, CMS is consolidating its efforts with new program integrity contractors that will look at billing trends and patterns across Medicare. They will focus on companies and individuals whose billings for Medicare services are higher than the majority of providers and suppliers in the community.

Kerkering, Barberio's Health Care Advisory Team can provide you with that early warning - or the security of knowing you have nothing to fear - at a very reasonable price.

You will receive the same billing analysis report used by Medicare to identify which providers to audit. Our analysis will show your overall risk to be selected for an audit. You will also have an expert, certified coder perform a baseline review of documentation conforming to Medicare standards.

### Your audit includes:

- Review of up to 10 encounters (dates of service) per provider (Evaluation and Management Codes --99201-99397), by a certified coding and documentation consultant.
- A 10-point compliance review (code linkage, proper category of CPT code, legibility, signatures, etc).
- Executive Summary with CPT coding accuracy rates.
- Detailed analysis of each encounter explaining why a service is or is not supported.
- Authoritative information to support audit findings and recommendations for corrective action if necessary.
- Utilization report showing how your billings compare to your peers and your risk for an audit.
- Results in seven business days.

Kerkering Barberio employs a clinical, bottom-up approach when performing provider audits - the same standards employed by Medicare and third party payers. We're not simply counting bullets; we're validating the medical necessity of the visit through the Chief Complaint and Nature of the Presenting Problem and then analyzing the level of history and exam to ensure that they are relevant to the level of service selected by the provider.

Our Compliance Team includes certified professional coders, certified compliance officers, and even a former government auditor. If you are interested in taking advantage of this special offer, please contact Belinda Holmes, BS, CPC, CCP-P of Kerkering Barberio's Healthcare Advisory team at (941) 953-7451 X1245. We will then provide you with a practice-specific quote for the audit and a list of items needed to perform the audit.

See our blog for additional information and a RAC preparedness checklist at: [www.kbgrp.com/kbblog/](http://www.kbgrp.com/kbblog/)