

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

PHYSICIAN NOTES: OIG Imposes One of the Largest Ever Civil Monetary Penalties Against Nevada Radiology Practice

Plus: CMS establishes MLN Matters article to answer your PQRI questions.

Think its okay to provide diagnostic tests without physician orders? One Las Vegas radiology practice is paying dearly for making that mistake, among others.

The physician-owned practice will pay \$2 million to resolve allegations that it submitted false claims to Medicare, the OIG announced in a March 25 press release.

The settlement--one of the largest ever negotiated under the OIGs Civil Monetary Penalties authority--will resolve the following allegations against the radiology practice:

- "Improperly providing diagnostic tests to Medicare beneficiaries without the required treating physicians orders
- " Billing for certain tests under CPT codes not supported by the medical records
- " Failing to satisfy certain other Medicare billing and coverage requirements, the OIG noted in its press release.

OIG will investigate and pursue enforcement actions against health practitioners who engage in a pattern of billing Medicare for services that were not ordered by the patients treating physicians, said Inspector General **Daniel Levinson**