

# **POLICY ACTION ALERT**

## **AACU State Society Network**

Dear Urologists in **California, New York and Florida**:

### **The Issue**

The AACU State Society Network (SSN) would like to alert you to a teleconference regarding a critical issue that may affect your practice. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is using outside contractors to review Medicare Part A & B claims in Florida, California and New York. The purpose of the audit is to ensure CMS is paying appropriately for services. These private firms that look for both underpayments and overpayments, will be paid based on how much overpayment they can recoup from physicians.

### **Our Voice Must Be Heard!**

### **The Action**

CMS is holding a Special Open Door Forum Teleconference to provide information and an open discussion. The AACU will be there and urologists and/or practice managers should join to learn more about this program. Below is a CMS press release with information about the call. Feel free to contact the AACU if you have any questions

Rai Flynn  
State Affairs Manager  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
(847) 517-1050  
[statesociety@aacuweb.org](mailto:statesociety@aacuweb.org)

Special Open Door Forum:

## **Recovery Audit Contractors: 3-Year Demonstration Project**

November 7, 2005

1:00 -3:00 PM (Eastern Time)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently implemented a new demonstration project using Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs) as part of CMS' efforts to ensure accurate payments. Under the conditions of this three-year demonstration project, the RACs will review Medicare claims to identify improper Medicare payments that have been made to healthcare providers and that were not detected through the prepayment review process. The RACs will review claims processed in the states of California, Florida and New York.

CMS maintains ongoing efforts to ensure that providers have the information they need to bill correctly, and to avoid improper payments. Education and training

resources on the CMS professional website ([www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)) include a customized provider web portal ([www.cms.hhs.gov/providers](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers)), new Medicare Learning Network educational products and training guides ([www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn)), regular “Medlearn Matters” articles explaining new program policy billing procedures ([www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/medlearnmatters](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/medlearnmatters)), and enhanced Frequently Asked Questions.

CMS is holding this Special Open Door Forum to provide a broad audience of health care providers, suppliers, and beneficiary advocates, with an opportunity to review the purpose and scope of this demonstration project, to allow for further public discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the RACs, and to give a better understanding of how they will conduct their operations during this three-year demonstration. The forum will begin with an update of the RAC demonstration, and will then transition into an open question and answer period with CMS policy experts and with the RAC contractor representatives from the three states.

We look forward to your participation.

#### **Open Door Participation Instructions:**

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID **1661424**:

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired.

For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687

“Encore” is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID # **1661424**.

The recording begins November 8th, and expires after 4 business days.