

New RAC Audit Issues Identified

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Outpatient hospitals and physicians take note: Connolly Consulting Associates, Inc., a Recovery Audit Contractor, has identified seven issues for auditing of potential Medicare overpayments.

Those audit issues are: blood transfusions, untimed codes, IV hydration therapy, bronchoscopy service, once in a lifetime procedures, pediatric codes exceeding age parameters, and Code J2505 - injection - Pegfilgrastim 6 mg. Provider Medicare billings dated on or after October 1, 2007 are subject to audit review. More information is available at http://www.connollyhealthcare.com/RAC/pages/approved_issues.aspx.

Connolly indicates these audit issues are currently confined to outpatient hospitals and physicians in South Carolina. However, this does not preclude future audits of providers in other states on these issues. Connolly is the RAC assigned to audit Medicare providers in Region C covering the states of WV, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, TN, AR, OK, LA, MS, TX, and NM.

Providers should be aware of these issues and take steps now to ensure they are prepared to respond if audited. Previously, our posts dated July 20, 2009 and July 27, 2009 provided background and information on the RAC program and steps that can be taken to prepare for such audits. These posts are available at:

http://www.kingballow.com/Publications_files/Healthcare/AreYouReadyforRACs.pdf

http://www.kingballow.com/Publications_files/Healthcare/Connolly%20outreach.pdf

It is to a provider's advantage to establish mechanisms to detect and correct improper payments. Doing so, will prevent recoupment, save time, and ensure that providers are more effective in succeeding with respect to RAC challenges of legitimate payments.

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