



The Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Program: A Survival Guide for Healthcare Providers

Duane C. Abbey

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Medicare fraud is big business, but while only a few profit from intentional malfeasance, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is now taking a closer look at everyone. The *Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Program*, already infamously known as the RAC, swings into full operation in 2010 and every healthcare provider that receives payment under any of the Medicare fee-for-service payment systems will be subject to RAC scrutiny. And scrutinize, they will... .

Instead of developing another bureaucracy, the government has turned the job of auditing over to outside firms whose payment will be based exclusively on finder fees for recouping improper payments. There will be little tolerance for poor record keeping or gray areas of coding.

Written by medical billing guru and Lean accounting expert, Duane Abbey, **The Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Program: A Survival Guide for Healthcare Providers** explains all that is required to prepare and successfully defend against inappropriate RAC audit recoveries. Using the same succinct style that always makes his writing so accessible, Abbey illustrates his lessons with simple case studies placed in the context of a fictitious community whose population is served by a hospital, clinics, a nursing facility, and other providers all seeking to maintain compliance and profitability.

In discussing RAC guidelines, this resource —

- Shows how to identify overpayment areas and associated compliance issues
- Details a systematic problem-solving process relative to RAC processes
- Addresses resource requirements including new personnel, such as RAC specialists
- Includes planning models for developing compliance departments
- Provides an extensive glossary to make sense of medical billing's alphabet soup of acronyms

While the book works well as a stand-alone reference for those seeking advice on RAC audits, readers will also discover that this volume extends the lesson of Abbey's classic *Compliance for Coding, Billing & Reimbursement, Second Edition* , making this book a natural companion for those wanting to fully explore the role of compliance and Lean accounting in medical billing.

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