# UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL NECESSITY IN THE EYES OF CERTS, MACS AND RACS

## **REDUCING IMPROPER PAYMENT**

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#### **California Orthopedic Association Annual Meeting**

Carlsbad, California



## DISCLOSURE

- Consultant for the FDA Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Medical Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee
- Advisory Board of Covenant Orthopedics
- Consultant to Accretive Health
- Board of Directors of OrthoCentrix Solutions

- Sg2 Clinical Advisor
- Consultant for Access Mediquip
- Consultant for Zimmer (product liability)
- Consultant for Breg (business development)
- Royalties from Innomed
- Equity in OrthoIndex
- Speaking honorariums

# **KEY TERMS**

## **CERT** = Comprehensive Error Rate Testing

### **MAC** = Medicare Administrative Contractor

## **RAC** = Recovery Audit Contractor Program



# IT BEGAN IN 2002 ...

#### **Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA)**

- Signed into law on November 26, 2002
- Intended to increase financial accountability in the federal government and reduce wasteful spending
- Required agencies to estimate overpayments and under payment and report steps taken to reduce improper payments
- By strengthening financial management controls so that Federal agencies can better detect and prevent improper payments, the Federal Government can better ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.





# **CAMPAIGN TO CUT WASTE**

	Government Programs With Highest Amount of Improper Payments, 2010	Improper Payments (Billions)
$\checkmark$	Medicare (FFS)	\$28.8
✓	Medicaid	\$21.9
	Unemployment Insurance (UI)	\$13.7
✓	Medicare Advantage (Part C)	\$12.4
	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$4.6
	Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI)	\$4.5
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$2.5
✓	Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D)	\$1.7
	Pell Grants	\$1.0
	Rental Housing Assistance Programs	\$1.0
	Total	\$125.0

FFS = Fee-for-service.



# THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

#### **Medicare Claim Submissions:**

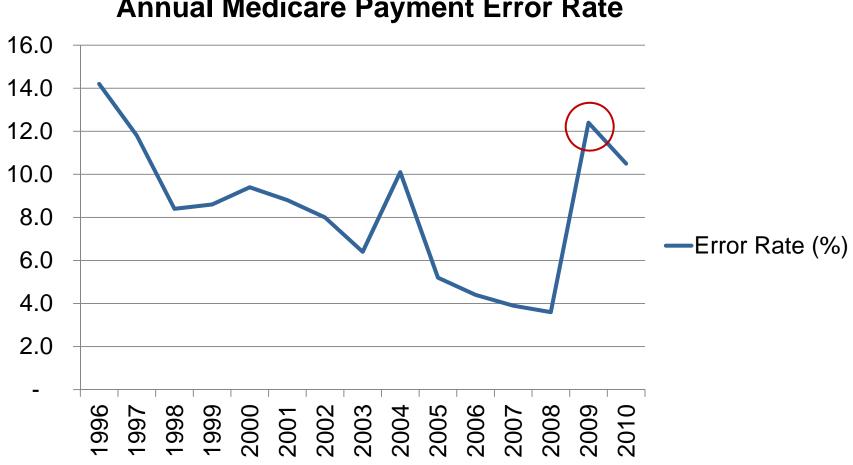
- 1.2 Billion per year
- 4.6 Million per work day
- 575,000 per hour
- 9,580 per minute
- 160 per second



#### 10,000 new Medicare enrollees a day

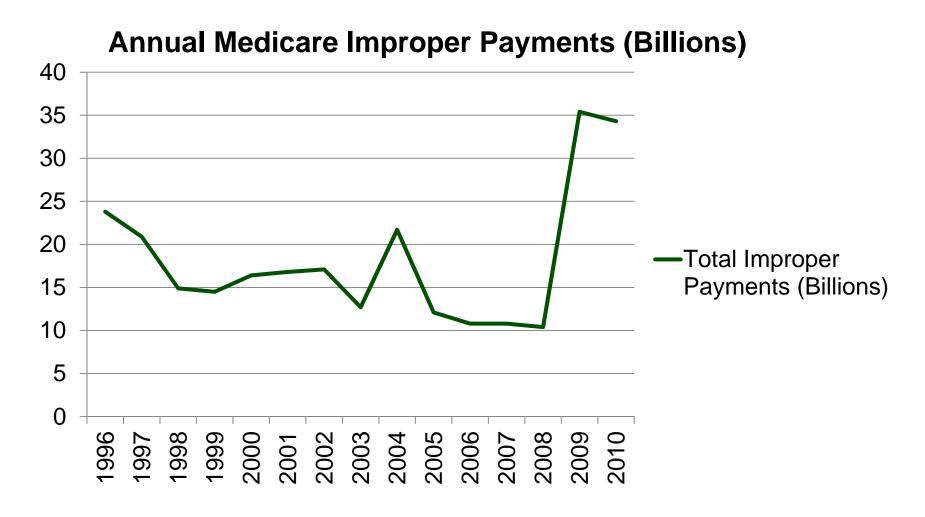


# **NATIONAL MEDICARE FEE-FOR-SERVICE ERROR RATES**

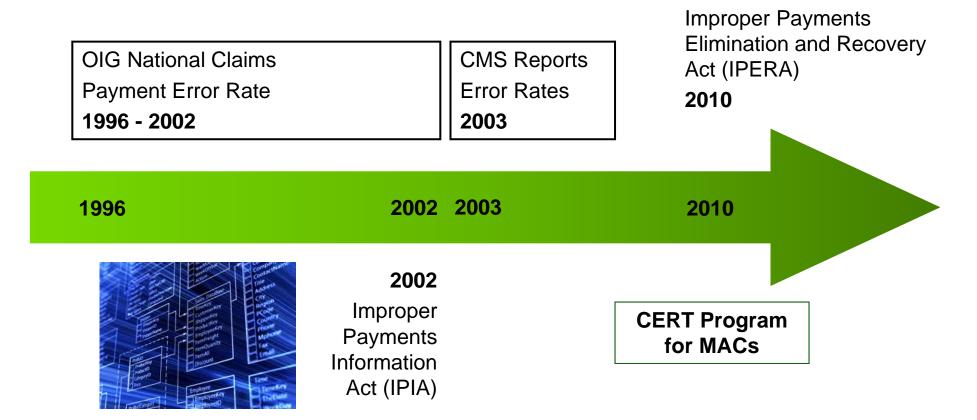


**Annual Medicare Payment Error Rate** 

# NATIONAL MEDICARE FEE-FOR-SERVICE IMPROPER PAYMENTS



# COMPREHENSIVE ERROR RATE TESTING (CERT) HISTORY

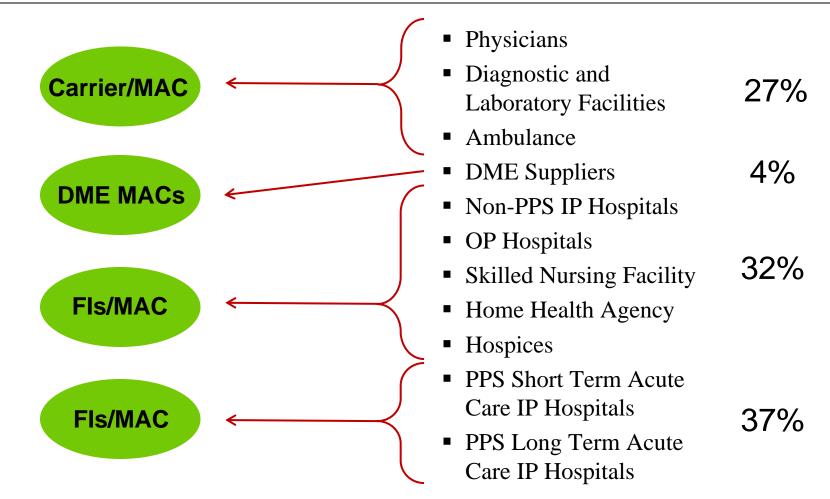


OIG = Office of the Inspector General, CMS = Centers for Medicare & Medicaid, Services, CERT = Comprehensive Error Rate Testing, MAC = Medicare Administrative contractor.





# CMS ESTABLISHED THE CERT PROGRAM TO PROTECT THE TRUST FUND



DME = durable medical equipment, PPS = prospective payment system, IP = inpatient, OP = outpatient, FI = fiscal intermediary.



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# **IMPROPER PAYMENTS**

- Goals set by President Obama: Reduce the Medicare FFS improper payment rate from 12.4% (2009) to 8.5% by Nov 2011 and 6.2% by Nov 2012
- Identify past improper payments through data analysis (CERT)
- Correct past improper payments through post pay review (RAC)
- Prevent future improper payments through provider education
- New tactics:
  - Prepayment review
  - Medical necessity documentation
  - Prior authorization
  - Predictive modeling
  - Data mining

FFS = fee-for-service.





# RAC TARGETS FOR OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY

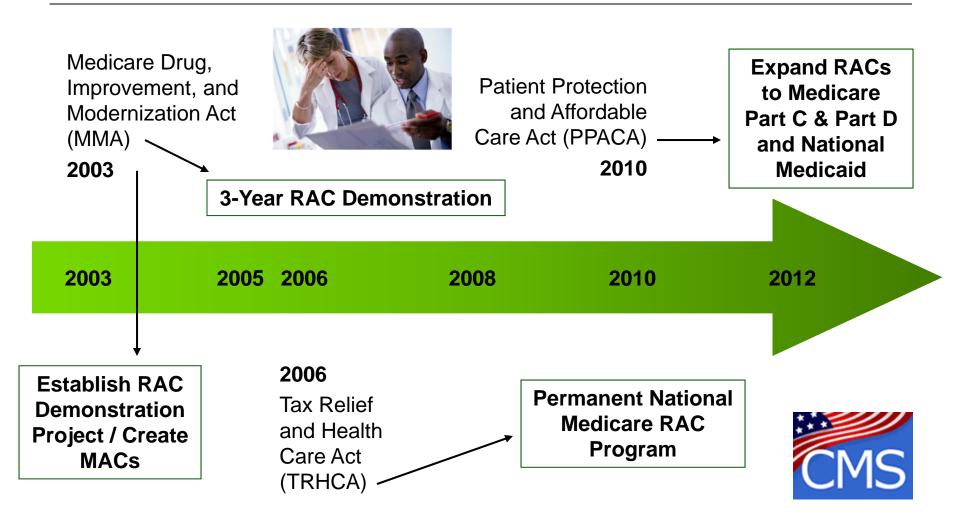
- Incorrect level of care: Inpatient vs. Outpatient (Observation)
- Incorrect setting (office surgery vs. outpatient hospital)
- Lack of legible documentation to support billing
  - Documentation doesn't support medical necessity
  - Lack of physician orders
  - Illegible or missing signatures
  - No records sent to auditor
- Services that are not "reasonable and necessary"
  - Local or national coverage policies
- Incorrect coding / wrong DRG
- Incorrect payments
- Ineligible beneficiaries
- Non-covered or duplicate services paid







# RAC EVOLUTION – PAYMENT ERROR REDUCTION TIMELINE

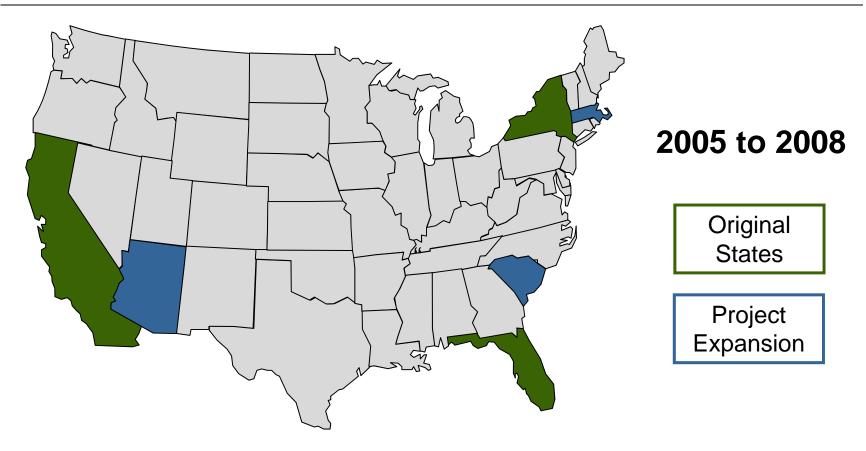


RAC = recovery audit contractor, MAC = Medicare administrative contractor, CERT = Comprehensive Error Rate Testing.



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# MMA (2003) MANDATES RAC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



#### Over \$1.03 billion in Medicare improper payments

MMA = Medicare Modernization Act (Medicare Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act).



## THE BIG FIND IS OVERPAYMENT

\$992.7 Million\$37.8 Million4% Underpayments

\$1.03 Billion

\$954.9 Million <u>Net</u>

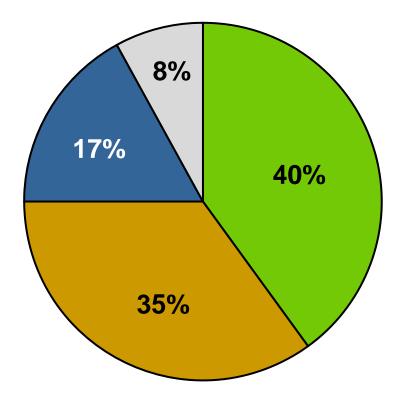


Largely focused on hospital inpatient care





# INITIAL RAC DEMONSTRATION SUCCESSES



Not Medically Necessary

Incorrect Coding

Clerical Errors (i.e., Duplicate Claims)

□ Insufficient Documentation

Improper payment, not necessary fraud or abuse



# **INITIAL FOCUS ON HOSPITALS**

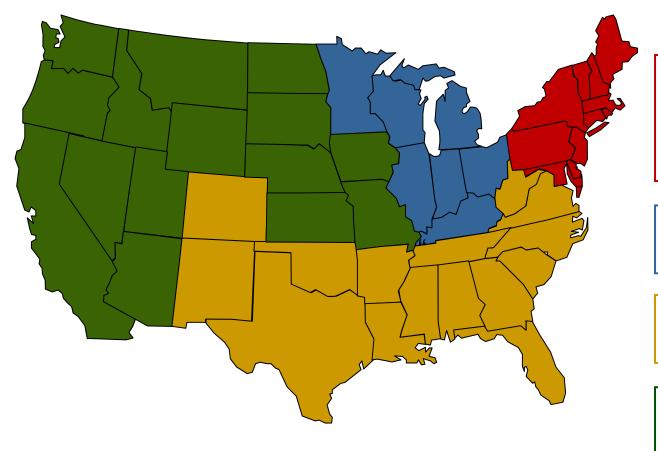
#### **Coding and Medical Necessity Policies**

- ✓ Hospitals (95%)
- Physician practices
- Nursing homes
- Home health agencies
- Durable medical equipment suppliers
- Any other provider or supplier that bills Medicare Parts A and B





# **4 RAC REGIONS ESTABLISHED**



Region A: Diversified Collection Services ("DCS") Healthcare

Region B: CGI Federal

Region C: Connolly Healthcare

Region D: HealthDataInsights



# 2012: THREE NEW RAC DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- 1. Recovery Audit Prepayment Reviews
  - 3 years / 11 states
  - Expanded scope
  - No longer "pay and chase"
  - Focus on medical necessity
- 2. Prior Authorization of Power Mobility Devices (PMDs)
  - 3 years / 7 states
  - Requires prior authorization for PMD
- 3. Part A to Part B Rebilling
  - 3 years / 380 hospital enrollment
  - Agree to 90% Part B reimbursement
  - Forego appeal rights







## **APPEAL OF AN ADVERSE AUDIT**

### Discussion and Rebuttal

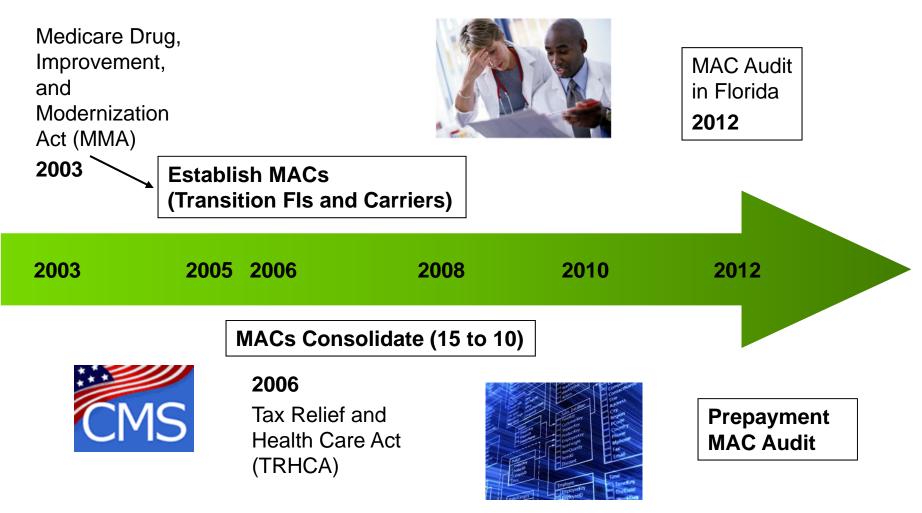
- Discussion 40 day period to discuss the denial with the RAC
- Rebuttal the provider's opportunity to explain financial hardships
- Five Stages of Appeal
  - 1. Request for Redetermination before the RAC
  - 2. Request for Reconsideration with the Qualified Independent Contractor
  - 3. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Review
  - 4. Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) Review
  - 5. Judicial Review







# ROLE OF THE MEDICARE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTORS (MAC)



FI = Fiscal Intermediaries, MAC = Medicare administrative contractor.



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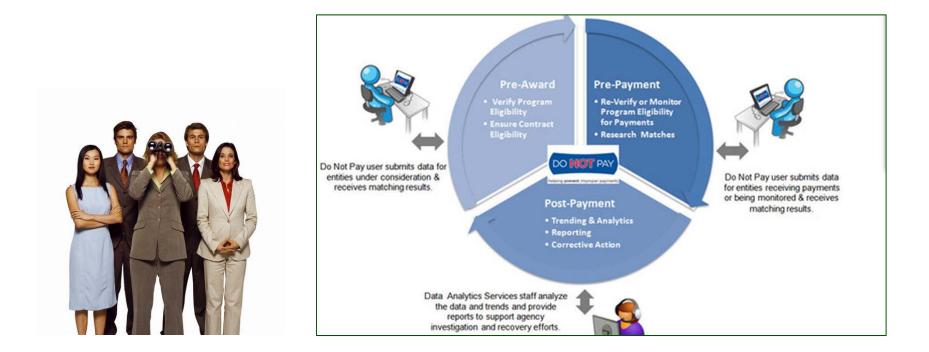
# MAC PREPAYMENT AUDIT - 15 MS-DRGS: 11 CARDIAC AND 4 ORTHOPEDIC

#### **Orthopedic MS-DRGs included in RAC audits**

MS-DRG	Percent of 2011Ortho Volume	Description	2011 Payment
470	29.0%	Major joint replacement or reattachment of lower extremity w/o MCC	\$ 11,748
470	29.070		φ 11,740
460	5.5%	Spinal fusion except cervical w/o MCC	\$ 21,618
100	4 40/	Back and neck procedures except spinal fusion	<b>*</b> 40.005
490	1.4%	w/CC/MCC or disc device/neurostimulator	\$ 10,005
		Spinal fusion except cervical w/spinal curve,	
458	458 0.2% malign, or 9+ fusions w/o CC		\$ 27,574



# THE BATTLE AGAINST PAYMENT ERRORS AND FRAUD CONTINUES



#### Do Not Pay Solution open for business





# REALITY: 2012 FEDERAL BUDGET (TRILLION)

Revenue	\$2.17
Requested spending	\$3.82
Deficit	\$1.65



- Shortfall of 43%
- Total Federal Debt is \$15.2 Trillion
- Liability of \$48,479 per person

# A LONG, SLOW RECOVERY

Federal Budget Outlook, in Billions of Dollars

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Revenues	2,163	2,314	2,635	3,069	3,423	3,665
Outlays	3,456	3,597	3,609	3,692	3,803	3,988
Deficit	-1,294	-1,284	-973	-623	-380	-322



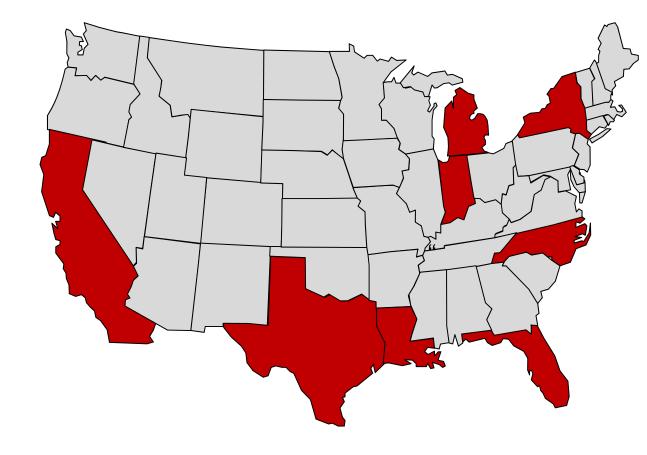
**"The United States is facing profound budgetary and economic challenges."** 

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Sources: Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook: An Update, August 2011.



# "HIGH RISK FRAUD" STATES



- <u>California</u>
- Florida
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- New York
- North Carolina



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# TAKE AWAY

- The Government is focused on controlling costs
- Policies and tools are in place to reduce "waste"
- RAC focus is expanding from site of care and up coding to medical necessity
- Orthopedic payments will be monitored
- "Bad" providers are at risk
- Documentation will be increasingly important
- Recovery demands will likely increase work and cost for providers
- Understand the appeal process at your hospital
- This needs to be properly managed





# THANK YOU

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