

Compliance Today – November 2020 OIG report: Payment of \$2.6 billion to Medicare Advantage plans raises concerns

By Margaret Dragon

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) September 2020 report titled *Billions in Estimated Medicare Advantage Payments From Diagnoses Reported Only on Health Risk Assessments Raise Concerns*^[1] found that Medicare Advantage organizations (MAOs) received an estimated \$2.6 billion in risk-adjusted payments for 2017 from diagnoses reported only on health risk assessments (HRAs)—and on no other service records.

These payments are being questioned. MAOs receive higher risk-adjusted payments based on diagnoses for Medicare beneficiaries expected to have greater healthcare needs.

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