

## Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 33, Number 10. March 18, 2024

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◆ The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) has updated its work plan and there are some particularly compelling compliance risk areas on it.<sup>[1]</sup> One item is an evaluation of Medicare inpatient hospital billing for sepsis in the wake of evolving definitions. OIG will “analyze Medicare claims to assess patterns in the inpatient hospital billing of sepsis in 2023 and describe how the billing of sepsis varied among hospitals. We will also estimate the costs to Medicare associated with using the broader, rather than the narrower, definition of sepsis.” Another is an audit of Medicare diabetes drugs under Part D. “Part D spending for one of these six drugs, Ozempic, more than tripled between 2020 and 2022, with expenditures jumping from \$1.5 billion to \$4.6 billion. Other diabetes drugs are experiencing similar growth and could overshadow Ozempic. Part D payments for a type 2 diabetes drug, such as Ozempic, for a use that Medicare does not cover as a medically accepted indication is not in compliance with Medicare requirements and presents an opportunity for fraudulent, excessive, or unnecessary Part D payments,” OIG said. It also will look at Medicaid spending on the drugs.

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