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Office of Inspector General Issues 2011 Work Plan

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The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (“OIG”) recently issued its 2011 Work Plan at <http://oig.hhs.gov/publications/workplan/2011/>. The OIG was created to protect the integrity of Federal health care programs. The Work Plan provides brief descriptions of projects that the OIG intends to initiate or emphasize in 2011, and typically gives providers a glimpse at enforcement priorities. Although there are well over 100 projects described in the 2011 Work Plan, providers should note the following areas of emphasis:

Hospitals:

- Duplicate graduate medical education payments
- Hospital reporting for adverse events
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital claims for replacement of medical devices
- Brachytherapy Reimbursement
- Image-guided radiation therapy services

Home Health Agencies:

- Part B payments for home health beneficiaries
- Home health agency enrollment

Nursing Facilities:

- Oversight of poorly performing nursing homes
- Criminal background checks
- Part B services during Non-Part A nursing home stays

Medical Equipment and Supplies:

- Frequency of replacement of DME supplies
- Power wheelchairs
- Competitive bidding
- Home blood-glucose testing supplies

Other Providers:

- Hospice services to patients residing in nursing facilities
- Coding of evaluation and management services
- Payments for Part B imaging services
- Portable X-ray suppliers
- Sleep testing
- Independent diagnostic testing facilities' compliance with Medicare standards
- Trends in laboratory utilization

Providers should keep abreast of OIG enforcement priorities. If you have any questions about the OIG 2011 Work Plan, please contact your Lashly & Baer attorney, or [Richard D. Watters](#) or [Stuart J. Vogelsmeier](#) at (314) 621-2939.