



April 30, 2021

Humana Overcharged Medicare Nearly \$200M

According to a federal audit, a Humana health plan for seniors in Florida improperly collected nearly \$200 million from the government in 2015 “by overstating how sick some patients were.” The government wants its money back.

The repayment would be “by far the largest” audit penalty ever imposed on a Medicare Advantage company, says an assistant regional inspector general at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This can happen because Medicare Advantage plans are prepaid health care. The government prepays them a set amount per month per Medicare recipient, regardless of care received. But plans can request additional money if their patients have higher “risk scores.” The auditors are saying Humana inflated the risk scores, saying their patients were sicker than they actually were.

“Human Inc. Overcharged Medicare Nearly \$200 Million, Federal Audit Finds,” NPR, April 20, 2021: <https://n.pr/3v6TM4c>

“Why Medicare Advantage Costs Taxpayers Billions More Than it Should,” Fred Schulte, et al, The Center for Public Integrity, June 4, 2014; updated January 14, 2015: <https://bit.ly/3dHzl2L>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
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