

Medicare Denies More Patients Than Private Insurers

- According to the AMA's "2008 National Health Insurance Report Card,"^[1] Medicare had the **highest percentage** of and **largest number** of denied medical claims.
- **Medicare denied 10 times the number of medical claims than any private insurer in 2008.**
- **By percentage, Medicare denied twice as many claims as four major insurers did in 2008**, according to the AMA (CIGNA, Coventry, Humana, and UHC).
- **In 2008, Medicare denied almost half a million claims.**

| Payer | Count of records | Denied records | Percent of claim lines denied | Date range |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Aetna | 637,239 | 43,317 | 6.80% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| Anthem | 250,070 | 11,546 | 4.62% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| CIGNA | 263,728 | 9,060 | 3.44% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| Coventry | 20,487 | 590 | 2.88% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| Health Net | 4,975 | 193 | 3.88% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| Humana | 143,026 | 4,142 | 2.90% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| Medicare | 6,938,431 | 475,566 | 6.85% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |
| UHC | 1,127,691 | 30,177 | 2.68% | 03/01/2007 – 3/10/2008 |

^[1] <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/368/2008-nhirc-report-card.pdf>