

**MOA MEMBERS  
FROM SUE A. WEINGARTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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**MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN PROVIDERS: ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN  
ONLINE EDUCATION?**

The information below is from AOA First Look today. [There will be](#) a longer article in the next AOA News. Keep in mind that the requirement falls on the MA plan, which in turn must get all of its contractors and subcontractors to comply, so it only affects doctors who have written contracts with MA plans.

**Alert! All Providers for Medicare Advantage Plans Required to Take Course on Medicare Fraud, Waste, and Abuse**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires all Medicare Advantage (MA) plans to educate their contracted providers with respect to Medicare Fraud, Waste, and Abuse and to show evidence of compliance prior to Dec. 31, 2009.

Many ODs have already been contacted by MA plans, which are requiring doctors and staff to participate in online education provided by the payers. Each optometrists' office should keep a log, documenting that doctors and staff viewed the materials. The education is required for the MA plans to continue to work with Medicare and also required for the providers to continue their contract with the MA plans.

Since it is common for providers to be contracted with more than one MA plan, it is permissible for providers to simply verify that all doctors and staff have viewed the material once and then attest to their compliance by responding to Internet addresses provided by each insurer. It is not necessary to repeat the course for each insurer. Watch the AOA Web site and AOA News for more details regarding this program.