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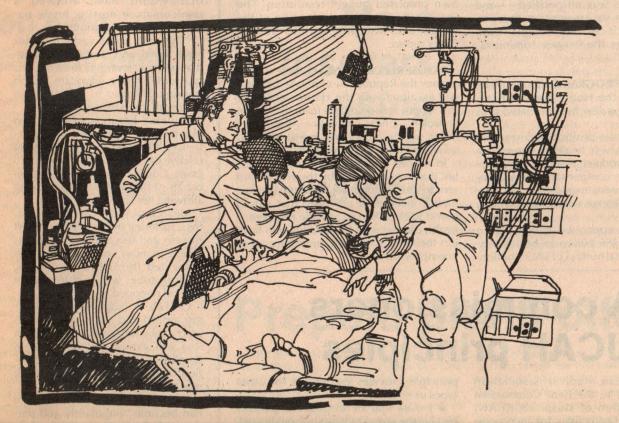
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Intensive An NIH panel urged hospitals to take a closer look at

Pathologists to challenge Medicare rule

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) intends to file suit in opposition to final regulations covering Medicare reimbursement for hospital-based physicians.

The challenged federal rules, which were written to implement section 108 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) of 1982, would recharacterize clinical pathology from a Part B to a Part A service for the purpose of Medicare reimbursement.

Part A professional services are those that benefit a hospital's patients generally, while Part B medical services are those that are furnished to individual patients.

In addition, the new regulations provide that reimbursement for services furnished in hospitals will be made only if the services "ordinarily require performance by a physician."

The date and location for filing the CAP suit had not been determined at press time. A knowledgeable source, however, said that it would be filed before or during the CAP/American Society of Clinical Pathologists joint spring meeting in Chicago April 9-14.

"The federal government has issued regulations that state, in essence, that pathologists' clinical services will

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