Program Memorandum

Intermediaries/Carriers

Transmittal AB-00-38	Date: MAY 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1158

SUBJECT: **Hard Coding of Duplicate Edits in the Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) and the VIPS Medicare Systems (VMS) Standard Systems**

(NOTE: This Program Memorandum (PM) applies only to the users of the FISS and VMS Standard Systems)

In the 1998 HCFA Financial Report, the OIG reported a material weakness in systems application controls for Medicare contractors. In a review of the Medicare Carrier System, it noted that edits which are fully controlled by the contractors are permitted. HCFA concluded that only exact duplicate edits lend themselves to "hard coding" to prevent a system user from over-riding a standard system edit. Three standard system maintainers, EDS, UHC, and APASS have already made a modification to prevent a user over-ride of an exact duplicate edit. The other maintainers were prevented from doing so by the Y2K freeze on system modifications.

VMS and FISS must also create a hard coded exact duplicate edit which will auto-deny without user intervention. This edit may not be user-controlled. Exact duplicates for fiscal intermediaries are HIC Number; Type of Bill; Provider Identification Number; From Date of Service; Through Date of Service; Total Charges (on the line or on the bill); and HCPCS, CPT-4 or Procedure Code modifiers. Exact duplicates for carriers are HIC Number; Provider Number; From Date of Service; Through Date of Service; Type of Service; Procedure Code; Place of Service; and Billed Amount.

The *effective date* for this PM is October 1, 2000.

The *implementation date* for this PM is October 1, 2000.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after October 1, 2001.

If you have any questions, contact Max Buffington at 410-786-6966.

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