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# Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

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Department of Health and  
Human Services (DHHS)  
HEALTH CARE FINANCING  
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

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Transmittal AB-00-83

Date: SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

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CHANGE REQUEST 1278

**SUBJECT: Verteporfin (Visudyne)**

This Program Memorandum (PM) is an update to Change Request (CR) 1214, which had an effective date of July 1, 2000.

Effective July 18, 2000, Verteporfin (Visudyne) has been approved for inclusion in the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP). Therefore, for dates of service beginning July 18, 2000, verteporfin is payable as a drug under HCPCS code J3490. Verteporfin should no longer be paid as a supply and bundled into CPT 67299.

Ocular photodynamic therapy should still be billed as CPT 67299, and all components of the procedure should be bundled into 67299 and not paid separately (e.g., the infusion of verteporfin).

There is no national coverage policy for transpupillary thermal therapy, destruction of macular drusen by photocoagulation and feeder vessel technique (photocoagulation). These procedures should be coded as CPT 67999. Both coverage and payment for these procedures are carrier determined.

**The *effective date* for this PM is July 18, 2000.**

**The *implementation date* for this PM is September 4, 2000.**

**These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.**

**This PM may be discarded after July 18, 2001.**

**If you have any questions, contact Paul Rudolf (410) 786-6960.**