Program Memorandum
Intermediaries

Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal A-02-063

Date: JULY 24, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2261

SUBJECT: Scheduled Release for October Updates to Software Programs and Pricing/Coding Files

This Program Memorandum (PM) provides you with information regarding scheduled releases for CMS supplied software programs, and pricing/coding files for the October update.

The software identified in the below schedule will be final upon release. However, if after testing it is determined that a re-release is necessary, the replacement software will be released in the same manner as the original.

TITLE OF SOFTWARE/ FILES	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION OF UPDATE
Inpatient PRICER	8/09/02	Annual rate increase. New wage indexes.
OPPS PRICER	8/09/02	Updates to APC rates.
HHA PRICER	8/09/02	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
ASC PRICER	8/09/02	New and deleted ASC codes and payment group changes.
SNF PRICER	8/09/02	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
Hospice PRICER	8/09/02	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
OPPS OCE	8/09/02	Changes to CMS coding, edits, flags, APCs, status indicator descriptions and logic.
Non-OPPS OCE	8/07/02	Changes to codes, ASC payment groups edits and logic.
Inpatient GROUPER	8/02/02	Annual update of ICD-9-CM coding and DRGs.

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TITLE OF SOFTWARE/ FILES	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION OF UPDATE
MCE	8/02/02	Annual update of inpatient edits.
Zip Code File	8/16/02	Quarterly update of Zip Codes for ambulance reporting.
MPFSDB	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
CORF/ Therapy Supplemental MPFSDB	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
MPFSDB Abstract File (Therapy/ CORF/CAH)	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
Hospice File for RHHIs	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
Mammo-graphy Benefit Pricing File	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
Clinical Diagnostic Lab Fee Schedule	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
DMEPOS Fee Schedule	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
HCPCS	**	Annual update of HCPCS codes.
Ambulance Fee Schedule File	**	Annual update.

  * If there is a quarterly release, you will be notified in a separate PM.
** There are no updates for these pricing/coding files for October.

The OCE, inpatient GROUPER, and MCE will be shipped directly to Part A standard system maintainers.

The PRICER software will be made available for retrieval from CMS's Mainframe Telecommunications System. Standard system maintainers will be notified via e-mail when the software is available and will notify you via routine bulletins when they release the PRICER software to you.

The pricing/coding files will be available for retrieval from CMS's Mainframe Telecommunication System. You will be notified in future PMs of when the pricing/coding files will be available.

Acronyms:

APC – Ambulatory Payment Classification
ASC – Ambulatory Surgical Center
BIPA – Benefits Improvement and Protection Act
CMHC – Community Mental Health Center
CORFs – Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities
DMEPOS – Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetic Orthotic and Supply
DRGs – Diagnosis Related Groups
HHA – Home Health Agency
HCPCS – Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
ICD-9-CM – International Classification of Disease, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification
MCE – Medicare Code Editor
MPFSDB – Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database
NWI – New Wage Indexs
OCE – Outpatient Code Editor
OPPS – Outpatient Prospective Payment System
RHHIs – Regional Home Health Intermediaries
SNF – Skilled Nursing Facilities

The *effective date* for this PM is not applicable. This PM is informational only.

The *implementation date* for this PM is not applicable. This PM is informational only.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after October 1, 2003.

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Strickland at (410) 786-0508.