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# **PROGRAM MEMORANDUM CARRIERS**

**Department of Health  
and Human Services**

**Health Care Financing  
Administration**

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**Transmittal No. B-00-31**

**Date JUNE 2000**

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## **CHANGE REQUEST 1210**

**SUBJECT: Use of CPT Code 33999 for Transmyocardial Revascularization (TMR)**

Medicare national coverage policy for TMR includes coverage for TMR when performed at the same time as a thoracotomy for other purposes. TMR is described under CPT code 33140 as "Transmyocardial Laser Revascularization, by thoracotomy (separate procedure)."

This CPT code was specifically developed for TMR as a separate procedure, and the physician work and practice expense Relative Value Units (RVUs) were based on this assumption. In calendar year (CY) 2001, a new CPT code will be effective that describes TMR as an add-on to thoracotomies performed for other reasons. It will have physician work and practice expense RVUs based on its status as an add-on procedure. Therefore, it is not appropriate to report CPT code 33140 when TMR is performed as an add-on to a thoracotomy.

For CY 2000, there is no CPT code which is appropriate for coding TMR as an add-on procedure. Therefore, we are advising physicians to use CPT code 33999 ("Unlisted procedure cardiac surgery") when coding TMR as an add-on to a thoracotomy. This code is carrier priced.

**The effective date for this Program Memorandum (PM) is July 1, 2000.**

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

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

**This PM may be discarded after July 1, 2001.**

**For questions related to payment, please contact Paul W. Kim at (410) 786-7410.**

**HCFA Pub. 60B**