

Program Memorandum Carriers

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

Transmittal B-02-061

Date: SEPTEMBER 27, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2357

SUBJECT: Schedule for Completing the Calendar Year (CY) 2003 Fee Schedule Updates and the Participating Physician Enrollment Procedures

This schedule is provided as a convenience for the carriers. It requires no action and has no effective or implementation dates. Any associated action will be directed through the listed Program Memorandums (PMs) and manual issuances. Target dates are subject to change.

Acronyms for the responsible components:

DPS – Division of Practitioner Services
DPCP – Division of Practitioner Claims Processing
DCPC – Division of Community Post-acute Care
DDS – Division of Data Systems
DAS – Division of Ambulatory Services

Other acronyms:

DME – Durable Medical Equipment
DMEPOS – Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics and Orthotics
DMERC – Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier
HCPCS – Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
SADMERC – Statistical Analysis Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier

<u>TARGET DATE</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE COMPONENT</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
August, 2002	DPCP	Issued CR2294, "Section 15900.3, Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB) 2003 File Layout," which updates the manual to correspond with the CY 2003 file layout.
August, 2002	DCPC	Issue PM, "Instructions for Implementing and Updating 2003 Payment Amounts for DMEPOS," to notify DMERCs, SADMERC, and local carriers of codes subject to DME gap-filling. Includes instructions on gap-filling, crosswalking and any needed adjustments to base fees as well as instructions for updating 2003 DMEPOS fee schedule and Level III codes. Also includes instructions for the maintenance process for the 2003 DMEPOS.
September 13, 2002	DMERCs Carriers	DMERCs/carriers submit to DDS any changes to DMEPOS base year amounts.
September 16, 2002	DDS	Release 2003 MPFSDB Test File.
October 1, 2002	DPCP	Issue PM, "2003 HCPCS."

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October 9, 2002	DDS	Release the 2003 HCPCS tape electronically. Available after 8 p.m. e.s.t. (This date is dependent upon receipt of tape from the American Medical Association.)
October 16, 2002	DDS	Release the 2003 MPFSDB to carriers electronically. DDS to include 2003 fee schedule amount.
October 18, 2002	DPCP	Issue PM, "Calendar Year (CY) 2003 Participation Enrollment and Medicare Participating Physicians and Suppliers Directory (MEDPARD) Procedures," which provides specifications for releasing fee schedule amounts and participation letters.
October 25, 2002	DPCP	Mail hard copy of data from 2003 MPFSDB. Files will include procedure codes, status code indicators, relative value units, and payment policy indicators. ROs will use in validation efforts.
November 1, 2002		Final rule implementing CY 2003 relative value units and payment policies to be published.
November 4, 2002	DDS	Release clinical laboratory pricing files to carriers.
November 5, 2002	DCPC/ DDS	Release 2003 DMEPOS fee schedules to the DMERCs, SADMERC, and local carriers.
November 7, 2002	Carriers	Begin delivery of participation enrollment information to providers via first class mail or equivalent delivery for receipt no later than 11/15/2002.
November 14, 2002	DPS/ DDS	Release the 2003 physician fee schedule amounts to the intermediaries, Palmetto GBA for Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), and the Civilian Health Medical Program for the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) for nationally priced codes. Also available on the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) Home Page if the final rule has been published.
November 15, 2002	DMERCs Carriers (If applicable)	Submit DME gap-filled amounts to DDS.
	Carriers	Furnish 2003 physician fee schedule amounts to DDS for local and carrier priced codes.
November 15 - December 31, 2002	Carriers	Process participation elections and withdrawals postmarked before 01/01/2003.
November 18, 2002	DDS	Furnish clinical laboratory pricing files to intermediaries, Indian Health Service (IHS), United Mine Workers (UMW) and RRB. State Medicaid agencies, and general public. Also available on the CMS website on or after this date.
November 25, 2002	DDS	Furnish physician fee schedule amounts to IHS and the UMW.
Late November, 2002	DAS	Issuance of Ambulance Inflation Factor.

Late November, 2002	DAS	Issuance of Ambulance Fee Schedule.
	Carriers	Furnish reasonable charge pricing files to intermediaries, IHS, UMW, RRB and State Medicaid Agencies. Furnish local and carrier priced codes to State Medicaid Agencies.
December 10, 2002	DDS	Release 2003 DMEPOS fee schedule amounts to intermediaries, Available on the CMS Home Page for use by RRB, IHS, UMW, State Medicaid agencies, and general public.
December 11, 2002	DDS	Furnish 2003 physician fee schedule amounts to intermediaries, IHS, UMW and RRB for local carrier priced codes.
December 13, 2002	DDS	Compute 2003 floors, ceilings, and pricing amounts from DME gap-filled amounts for new 2003 codes and release to carriers, fiscal intermediaries, DMERCs, SADMERC, RRB, IHS, and UMW.
January 1, 2003	Carriers FIs State Agencies United Health Care DMERCS	Implement 2003 fee schedule amounts.
	Carriers FIs	Implement 2003 HCPCS update.
January 31, 2003	Carriers ROs	Send updated provider file to RRB.
February 2003	DPS/ DDS	Issue PM, "Changes to the 2003 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database" and transmit files. (First quarterly update.)
February 28, 2003	Carriers	Disclose to each ambulance supplier the supplier's reasonable charge allowance for forthcoming year.
May 2003	DPS/ DDS	Issue PM, "Changes to the 2003 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database" and transmit files. (Second quarterly update.)
August 2003	DPS/ DDS	Issue PM, "Changes to the 2003 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database" and transmit files. (Third quarterly update.)

The *effective date* for this PM is not applicable.

The *implementation date* for this PM is not applicable.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after September 30, 2003.

If you have any questions, contact Bridgitte' Davis (410) 786-4573.