Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal AB-03-065   **Date: MAY 9, 2003**

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CHANGE REQUEST 2744

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SUBJECT: **Scheduled Release for July 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 July update.

The software identified in the schedule below 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	SCHEDULED RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION OF UPDATE
Inpatient PRICER	5/14/03	Miscellaneous wage index changes and addition of new technology add-on payments.
IRF PRICER	**	Annual rate increase. NWI.
LTCH PRICER	5/30/03	Mid-year rate changes.
OPPS PRICER	6/06/03	Updates to APC rates. NWI.
HHA PRICER	**	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
ASC PRICER	5/01/03	Changes to HCPCS codes and wage index.
SNF PRICER	*	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
Hospice PRICER	**	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
Single Drug PRICER	***	Quarterly update containing payment amounts for covered drugs.
OPPS OCE	6/06/03	Changes to CMS coding, edits, flags, APCs, status indicator descriptions and logic.
Non-OPPS OCE	6/06/03	Changes to codes, ASC payment groups edits and logic.
Inpatient GROUPER	**	Annual update of ICD-9-CM coding and DRGs.

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TITLE OF SOFTWARE/ FILES	SCHEDULED RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION OF UPDATE
MCE	**	Annual update of inpatient edits.
Zip Code File	5/15//03	Quarterly update of Zip Codes for ambulance reporting.
Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Edit Table	*	Annual update to table.
MPFSDB	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
CORF/ Therapy Supplemental MPFSDB	*	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
MPFSDB Abstract File (Therapy/ CORF/CAH)	5/07/03	Mid-year Updates 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	5/19/03 (DMERCs) 5/27/03 (Intermediaries)	Mid-Year Quarterly Update to fee schedule.
Ambulance Fee Schedule File	**	Annual update.
SNF Extract of the MPFSDB	5/07/03	Quarterly update of the technical component of those HPCS codes for which payment may be made to a SNF under Part B.
HCPCS	**	Annual update of HCPCS codes.

* If there is a quarterly release, you will be notified in a separate PM.
** There are no updates for these pricing/coding files for July.
*** Notes concerning the SDP file:
        Note 1: Follow Program Memorandum AB-02-174, issued December 3, 2002, regarding the SDP file. To the extent any statement in this PM contradicts what is stated in AB-02-174, the latter controls -- with respect to the SDP and the SDP only. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to the use of the file, the manner in which notice is given by CMS of the availability of the file, and when and how the file is made available to contractors.

Note 2: Application of the Least Costly Alternative (LCA) policy is not precluded by the SDP. However, when applying LCA, the LCA price must be an SDP price or the price of a separately priced drug (provided such drug is priced in accordance with AB-02-075) that does not appear on the SDP.

The PRICER software will be made available for retrieval from CMS's Mainframe Telecommunications System. Shared 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
IRF – Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility
LTCH – Long Term Care Hospital
MCE – Medicare Code Editor
MPFSDB – Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database
NWI – New Wage Indexes
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 July 1, 2004.

If you have any questions, contact Antoinette Johnson at (410) 786-9326.