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# Program Memorandum

## Intermediaries

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

Transmittal A-00-02

Date: JANUARY 2000

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CHANGE REQUEST 1096

**SUBJECT: Installation of the Medicare Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) Version 15.1**

This Program Memorandum is to inform you that the OCE has been updated with new additions, changes and discontinues to HCPCS/CPT-4 codes. The majority of these codes are effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2000. Because of cumulative delays, its scheduled delivery date of December 1, 1999 could not be met. The OCE was delivered to the standard system maintainers on December 17 and, therefore, could not be ready for production in conjunction with the other calendar year 2000 payment updates.

Version 15.1 of the OCE for dates of service beginning January 1, 2000 is to be installed in production by the maintainers on January 31, 1999. Until that time, continue to process claims using the 1999 version of the OCE currently in place.

You will not be held accountable for any claims that are processed incorrectly that are the direct result of the delayed OCE implementation. Because of the anticipated low volume of potential errors, you are not to conduct history searches to identify OCE errors. However, if a payment error is brought to your attention by a provider or as result of other contractor or audit activity, take the appropriate action once the systems changes have been made.

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

**The *implementation date* for this PM is January 31, 2000.**

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

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

**If you have any questions, contact the appropriate regional office.**

