

# Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

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

Transmittal AB-03-017

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## CHANGE REQUEST 2572

**SUBJECT: Scheduled Release for April 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 April 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	2/14/03	Mid-year rate changes and addition of new technology add-on payments.
IRF PRICER	**	Annual rate increase. NWI.
LTCH PRICER	**	Annual rate increase. NWI.
OPPS PRICER	2/14/03	Updates to APC rates. Added logic for blood deductible and technical charges. NWI.
HHA PRICER	**	Annual rate increases and NWI due to legislative mandate.
ASC PRICER	2/14/03	New and deleted HCPCS codes.
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	2/14/03	Quarterly update containing payment amounts for covered drugs.
OPPS OCE	To be determined	Changes to CMS coding, edits, flags, APCs, status indicator descriptions and logic.
Non-OPPS OCE	To be determined	Changes to codes, ASC payment groups edits and logic.
Inpatient GROUPER	**	Annual update of ICD-9-CM coding and DRGs.

TITLE OF SOFTWARE/ FILES	SCHEDULED RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION OF UPDATE
MCE	**	Annual update of inpatient edits.
Zip Code File	2/14/03	Quarterly update of Zip Codes for ambulance reporting.
Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Edit Table	2/21/03	Update will add ICD-9 diagnosis codes to one of the 23 lab policies and delete several CPT codes from another of the 23 lab policies through this module.
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	2/19/03	Annual rate increases to fee schedule.
Ambulance Fee Schedule File	**	Annual update.
SNF Fee Schedule	*	Annual update.
HCPCS	**	Annual update of HCPCS codes.

**\* You will be notified in a separate PM of changes/updates that occur in a corresponding quarterly release.**

**\*\* There are no updates for these pricing/coding files for April.**

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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 January 1, 2004.**

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