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# Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

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

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Transmittal AB-03-074

Date: MAY 23, 2003

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## CHANGE REQUEST 2618

**SUBJECT: Instructions for Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) and Multi-Carrier System (MCS) Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System (HIGLAS) Changes**

### Background

The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996 requires that Federal agencies implement and maintain financial management systems that comply with Federal management systems requirements. In order to comply, CMS will install Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) software that contains modules for general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budget, procurement, grants, etc. This COTS will be the financial software application that supports HIGLAS. HIGLAS will replace the benefit accounting processes used by Medicare contractors.

### Action Requested

The HIGLAS project is currently in the development phase. The maintainers of the MCS and FISS systems will implement changes into the standard systems and start development of conversion programs and processes during this phase. The changes and programs will not be operative in the production environment. They will not impact the production environment of Medicare claims processing, nor will the payment of Medicare claims be impacted. Only the HIGLAS Pilot Contractors will be impacted by the changes and only in their test environment.

The changes to be implemented for the development of HIGLAS as part of the July 03 release include changes to the current HIGLAS interfaces that were discovered during the development of the functional design specifications. Development will continue for error notification processes and financial information reporting of check status.

The Beta Test Sites for FISS and MCS will test for successful system creation of outbound interfaces to HIGLAS. The FISS and MCS standard system maintainers plus the HIGLAS Pilot Contractors must test validity of the data and transmission of the HIGLAS interfaces.

**The *effective date* for this PM is July 1, 2003.**

**The *implementation date* for this PM is July 1, 2003.**

**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 Maureen Hoppa at (410) 786-6958.**