

TO: ALL PROVIDERS
FROM: CAREFIRST INC., MEDICARE PART A
DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2003
RE: 2004 HEALTHCARE COMMON PROCEDURE CODING SYSTEM
(HCPCS) ANNUAL UPDATE REMINDER

Medicare providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors for Part B services use a HCPCS code to indicate the service that was provided. HCPCS consist of Level I codes, which are the American Medical Association's (AMA's) Current Physician Terminology Codes (CPT-4) and Level II codes, which are alpha-numeric and maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The alpha-numeric index and table of drugs are posted on the CMS Web site. The Website address is <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/pufdownload/default.asp#alphanu>. In light of copyright agreements, this file does not contain the American Medical Association's Level I CPT-4 codes. Copies of CPT-4 code books may be purchased by contacting the AMA at:

1-800-621-8335

Or

The American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago Illinois 60610

Effective for January 1, 2004, the AMA has established some new Category II codes that end with the letter "F." These codes will be used by the AMA to track performance measurement. The codes (approximately 11 codes at this time) will be added to the 2004 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database as noncovered services. These codes will also be included in the 2004 HCPCS file.

The 2004 HCPCS update is effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2004.

Medicare contractors shall apply the 3-month grace period for applicable discontinued codes. The grace period applies to claims received prior to April 1, 2004, which contain the 2003 discontinued codes for dates of service January 1, 2004 through March 31, 2004.

Contractors shall accept both 2003 discontinued codes and valid 2004 codes from physicians, suppliers, and providers during the January 2004–March 2004 grace period.

Should you have any questions relating to this article, contact Provider Relations at 1-866-488-0545.

Reference: Program Memorandum AB-03-140, CR 2896

THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDER/SUPPLIER STAFF. BULLETINS ISSUED AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1999 ARE AVAILABLE AT NO-COST FROM OUR WEBSITE AT www.marylandmedicare.com