CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 14026	**Date: October 26, 2026**
	Change Request 14618

Transmittal 13960 issued September 29, 2026, is being rescinded and replaced by Transmittal 14026, dated October 26, 2026, to consolidate the quarterly PFS update CRs into one with the January CR by updating the effective and implementation dates, updating the Summary of Changes, background and policy sections and revising business requirements 14618.1, 14618.1.1, 14618.2, 14618.2.2 and 14618.3. This correction also adds business requirements 14618.1.2 through 14618.1.5. All other information remains the same.

SUBJECT: Instructions for Retrieving the January, April, July, and October Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB) Datasets from the Cloud Service

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to provide instructions for the Medicare contractors to download, test, and implement the datasets for the annual January MPFSDB update, as well as the quarterly updates to the MPFSDB (the April, July, and October releases). In addition, Medicare contractors will need to be prepared to implement up to three revised MPFS payment datasets for January and the quarterly updates in the event that technical errors are discovered, or any other corrections are required. This recurring update notification applies to Publication 100-04, Chapter 23, Section 30.1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027
**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 4, 2027; April 5, 2027; July 5, 2027; October 4, 2027

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)
R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
N/A	N/A

III. FUNDING:
For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):
The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to

be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Recurring Update Notification

Attachment - Recurring Update Notification

Pub. 100-04	Transmittal: 14026	Date: October 26, 2026	Change Request: 14618

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I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to provide instructions for the Medicare contractors to download, test, and implement the datasets for the annual January MPFSDB update, as well as the quarterly updates to the MPFSDB (the April, July, and October releases). In addition, Medicare contractors will need to be prepared to implement up to three revised MPFS payment datasets for January and the quarterly updates in the event that technical errors are discovered, or any other corrections are required. This recurring update notification applies to Publication 100-04, Chapter 23, Section 30.1.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: The purpose of this CR is to provide instructions for the Medicare contractors to download, test, and implement the datasets for the annual January MPFSDB and the April, July, and October quarterly updates. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases a recurring CR each year for the annual January MPFS update and the subsequent quarterly updates. This CR provides the Medicare contractors with instructions on how they will receive the datasets for downloading, testing, and implementation of the annual January MPFS update and the quarterly updates for that calendar year. In addition, Medicare contractors will need to be prepared to implement up to three revised January and quarterly update MPFS payment datasets in the event that technical errors are discovered or any other corrections are required. This CR replaces, on an annual basis, the former quarterly-issued MPFSDB CRs. For the annual January MPFSDB update, CMS shall notify the contractors when the datasets are available for downloading through an e-mail notification via the Functional Workgroups as soon as the annual final rule goes on display (around November 1st of each year). Approximately six (6) weeks prior to the beginning of the April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st quarters, CMS will make available the updated MPFSDB file. Contractors shall retrieve the data via the Cloud, when instructed in a separate email notification from CMS.

Beginning with the April 2027 quarterly update, a summary of changes and record effective date for each change will be made available separately in connection with each quarterly release via the email instruction from CMS, rather than as an attachment to this CR. This summary document is not provided for the annual January MPFSDB update, as that is a full replacement file.

B. Policy: Contractors shall follow the instructions for retrieving the annual January and subsequent quarterly updated MPFS datasets as stated in Publication 100-04, Chapter 23, Section 30.1. Section 1848(c)(4) of the Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary to establish ancillary policies necessary to implement relative values for physicians' services.

III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH	MAC	FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
14618.1	The CMS shall notify the contractors when the January 2027 MPFSDB datasets (including the Anesthesia Conversion Factor dataset) are available for downloading through an e-mail notification via the Functional Workgroups as soon as the 2027 final rule goes on display (around November 1, 2026). For the April, July, and October 2027 MPSDB updates, CMS shall send each notification approximately six weeks before that release's implementation date.									CMS
14618.1.1	Medicare contractors shall download and test the January 2027 MPFSDB datasets (including the Anesthesia Conversion Factor dataset) from the cloud service around November 1, 2026. They shall also download from the cloud service and update their systems (manually or via the provided data), as identified in this CR, for the April, July, and October 2027 MPFSDB quarterly releases upon notification of each release.	X	X	X						Hybrid Cloud Data Center (HCDC), MAP, PCS

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH	MAC	FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
14618.1.2	For the April, July, and October quarterly updates, contractors shall download the MPFSDB revised payment data from the cloud service and implement it into their testing and production regions.			X						
14618.1.3	Upon email notification from CMS for the April, July, and October quarters, Data Centers (DCs) shall download the MPFS revised payment data from the cloud service and work with A/B MACs Part B to implement it into their testing and production regions.		X							Hybrid Cloud Data Center (HCDC), MAP, PCS
14618.1.4	For the April, July, and October quarterly MPFSDB updates, Medicare contractors shall not search their files to retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims. However, contractors shall adjust claims brought to their attention.	X	X	X						MAP
14618.1.5	For the April, July, and October quarterly MPFSDB updates, the contractors shall, in accordance with Pub 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, chapter 23, section 30.1, give providers a 30-day notice before implementing the changes.	X	X	X						MAP
14618.2	In the event that corrections are required and replacement MPFSDB payment datasets are issued, contractors shall be prepared to retrieve up to three replacement payment datasets from the cloud service per release.	X	X	X		X				Hybrid Cloud Data Center (HCDC), MAP, PCS

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH	MAC	FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
14618.2.1	The CMS shall notify the contractors when the replacement datasets are available for retrieval through an e-mail notification via the Part A and Part B Functional Workgroups.									CMS
14618.2.2	Contractors shall be ready to implement any replacement datasets no later than the implementation date of the applicable release, unless otherwise directed by CMS. NOTE: Replacement datasets will not be issued under this CR too far into the applicable release period, when claims are no longer routinely being held for the respective release. Any revisions after that will need a separate instruction.	X	X	X						CMS, MAP
14618.2.3	Contractors shall post any revised MPFS fees on their websites as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days after receipt of the datasets, if replacement datasets are issued.	X	X	X						MAP
14618.3	The CMS shall notify the Common Working File (CWF) maintainer via e-mail when the January, April, July, and October CWF MPFS datasets, (including replacement datasets), are available for downloading.									CMS
14618.3.1	For the new datasets (and when replacement datasets are issued), the CWF shall compare the existing data to the new data and install any necessary changes.								X	

IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION

None

Impacted Contractors: None

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A

VI. CONTACTS

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VII. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):
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ATTACHMENTS: 0