



## Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC), Claims Adjustment Reason Code (CARC), Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and PC Print Update

MLN Matters Number: MM11489 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11489

Related CR Release Date: **April 16, 2020**

Effective Date: April 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: **R10054CP**

Implementation Date: April 6, 2020

Note: We revised this article on April 16, 2020, to reflect an updated Change Request (CR) 11489 that revised the WPC website address in the background section of the CR (page 2 in this article). All other information remains the same.

### PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR 11489 updates the Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) and Claims Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) lists and instructs the ViPS Medicare System (VMS) and Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) to update the Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and PC Print software. Be sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes and obtain the updated MREP and PC Print if they use that software

### BACKGROUND

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) instructs health plans to be able to conduct standard electronic transactions adopted under HIPAA using valid standard codes. Medicare policy requires that CARCs and RARCs, as appropriate, which provide either supplemental explanation for a monetary adjustment or policy information that generally applies to the monetary adjustment, in the remittance advice and coordination of benefits transactions.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) instructs MACs to conduct updates based on the code update schedule that results in publication three times per year – around March 1, July 1, and November 1.

CR 11489 is a code update notification indicating when updates to CARC and RARC lists are made available on the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) website. The Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) have the responsibility to implement code deactivation, making sure that any deactivated code is not used in original business messages and allowing the deactivated code in derivative messages. The SSMs must make sure that Medicare does not report any

deactivated code on or after the effective date for deactivation as posted on the WPC website. If any new or modified code has an effective date later than the implementation date specified in CR 11489, MACs must implement on the date specified on the WPC website <https://nex12.org/index.php/codes>.

A discrepancy between the dates may arise, as the WPC website is only updated three times per year and may not match the CMS release schedule. For CR 11489, MACs and SSMs must get the complete list for both CARC and RARC from the WPC website to obtain the comprehensive lists for both code sets and determine the changes that are included on the code list since the last code update (CR11252 with related article at <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM11252.pdf>).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11489, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10054CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
April 16, 2020	We revised this article to reflect an updated CR 11489 that revised the WPC website address in the background section of the CR (page 2 in this article).
November 15, 2019	Initial article released.

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