

MLN Matters Number: MM4289

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4289

Related CR Release Date: February 3, 2006

Effective Date: July 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R833CP

Implementation Date: July 3, 2006

Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Enhancements, and Clarification of Check Issue/Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Effective Date

Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers billing Medicare carriers, including durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs), for services to Medicare beneficiaries

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4289, which instructs ViPs (the company that maintains the MREP software), carriers, and DMERCs to add enhancements to the current version of the MREP software and provides clarification of the check issue/ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) effective date.

Background

On October 11, 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) made available the MREP software to enable Medicare providers and suppliers to view and print the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant 835 (Electronic Remittance Advice (RA)). Using the HIPAA 835 files, Medicare Remit Easy Print enables providers and suppliers to view and print Medicare Part B and DMERC 835 in a human readable format. The format is on the current Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) format Medicare uses. MREP provides the ability to:

- View the 835
- Search the 835;
- Print the 835 in a format providers are familiar with; and
- View and print special reports.

Providers who use MREP can print reports to reconcile accounts receivable as well as create document(s) that can be included with claim submission to Coordination of Benefits (COB) payers. MREP is available free to Medicare providers and suppliers, and it can be installed on a personal computer (PC) or

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network. Please contact your Medicare contractor to download a copy of the MREP software.

Keeping MREP Up to Date

In order to continuously improve this product, CMS set up a process to collect valuable suggestions and recommendations to improve MREP's functionality and effectiveness from providers, contractors (carriers and DMERCs), and CMS staff. Using the suggestions and recommendations received before the cutoff date of November 15, 2005, CMS determined enhancements that were needed for MREP, and CR4289 includes a summary page attachment listing the MREP enhancements to be implemented in the MREP software release in July 2006. ViPs will update the MREP software to incorporate the listed enhancements.

Enhancement updates to be implemented in October 2006 will include suggestions/recommendations received between November 16, 2005, and the next cut-off date. Annual enhancement updates to MREP will be scheduled for each year in October.

If you are on the contractor list serve, you will be notified when the Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) and Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) file is updated three times a year, in April, August, and December. This file is the master listing of CARC and RARC used in printing the glossary on the MREP printout. Washington Publishing Company (WPC) publishes updates to this list three times a year. An update to the MREP application will be issued to correspond to the WPC updates. Your Medicare carrier will post a notification when these updates will be available, and a MLN Matters article is usually published to explain the changes in these updates.

Clarification of the Check Issue/EFT Effective Date

An issue was reported to contractors by providers receiving both electronic and paper Remittance Advice (RA).

- The MREP software populates the "Check Issues/EFT Effective Date" from the BPR16 data field (in the 835 transaction).
- The SPR uses the information contained in the "Production Date" from the DTM 02 data field (in the 835 transaction).

These two dates are the same if:

- The qualifier in the BPR 04 data field (in the 835 transaction) is either "CHK" or "NON"

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However, if the qualifier in BPR 04 data field is "ACH" (for electronic funds transfer), then the BPR 16 data field may be different than the "Production Date."

This acknowledges the fact that it may take a few days to have the funds electronically moved from the Medicare financial institution to the provider's financial institution.

CMS requires that the paper RA must mirror the electronic RA, and any software reading the electronic RA must have the same information in the output as in the electronic RA.

CR4289 repeats the instruction originally included in CR1953 (Transmittal B-01-76, dated December 11, 2001,

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/B0176.pdf>), which states that the information for Check Issue /EFT Effective Date must:

- Be populated from the BPR16 data field, and
- Not from the DTM 02 data field.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is July 3, 2006.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier/DMERC regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R833CP.pdf> on the CMS website. Attached to that instruction is the list of enhancements that will be incorporated in the July 3, 2006, version of the MREP software.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/DMERC at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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