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Guidance Regarding Elimination of Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advice Notices in the Old Format

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare physicians, providers, and suppliers

Provider Action Needed

Be advised that only the most recent version of the Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advices will be used. The 835 version 4010A1 flat file is the appropriate format to produce SPRs. Also, no data may be included in paper remittance advices that are not included in an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA).

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) prohibits the inclusion of data in paper remittance advice notices that is not included in the ERA transactions. The most recent version of the SPR Advice and the ERA contain the same information in the comparable fields and data elements, including the same codes. The same flat file should be used to produce both the SPR and 835 version 4010A1 ERA.

CMS has issued a memorandum to all Medicare carriers and fiscal intermediaries, including Durable Medical Equipment Carriers (DMERCs) and Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), stating that effective January 1, 2005, only the 835 version 4010A1 flat file is to be used to produce the SPRs; no other format for SPRs will be used.

Additional Information

Refer to Chapter 22 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Publication 100-4, which can be found online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c22.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Additional information regarding the Fiscal Intermediary Part A 835 flat file, including a sample of the most recent SPR format, is available in CR3344. You may view that CR at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/Downloads/R252CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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If you have any questions regarding receipt of or conversion to ERAs, please contact your carrier/intermediary. If you bill an intermediary, their number may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/Downloads/MedicarePartAEDIHelpline.pdf> on the CMS web site.

If you bill a carrier, their number may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/Downloads/MedicarePartBEDIHelpline.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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