



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

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12220

Related CR Release Date: May 21, 2021

Effective Date: October 1, 2021

Related CR Transmittal Number: R10814CP

Implementation Date: October 4, 2021

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, hospitals, providers, and suppliers billing MACs for services they provide to Medicare patients.

Provider Action Needed

This Article tells you about updates to the Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) and Claims Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) lists and instructs the ViPS Medicare System (VMS) and the Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) to update the Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and the PC Print software. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates. If you use MREP or PC Print, be sure to get the latest version when available.

Background

The [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\)](#) instructs health plans to conduct standard electronic transactions adopted under HIPAA using valid standard codes. Medicare policy requires use of 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.

CMS instructs the MACs to conduct updates based on the code update schedule. These updates occur in publication three times per year – around March 1, July 1, and November 1.

This article tells you of the next update to CARC and RARC lists as they are available on the official [Accredited Standards Committee \(ASC\) X12 website](#). Medicare's Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) are responsible for making sure we don't use any deactivated code in original business messages and allowing the deactivated code in derivative messages. The SSMs must make sure that Medicare doesn't report any deactivated code on or after the

effective date for deactivation as posted on the official ASC X12 website. If any new or modified code has an effective date later than the implementation date specified in CR 12220, the MACs must implement on the date specified on the official ASC X12 website.

A discrepancy between the dates may arise, as the ASC X12 updates the official website only 3 times per year and that may not match the CMS release schedule. The MACs and the SSMs must get the complete list for both CARC and RARC from the official ASC X12 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 (CR 12102).

More Information

We issued [CR 12220](#) to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, contact your [MAC](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
May 21, 2021	Initial article released.

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