



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0656

Date Posted: August 15, 2006

Related CR #: N/A

End of Contingency for Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) – ACTION

Key Words

Contingency, Electronic, Remittance, Advice, ERA, SE0656, CR5047, MM5047

Provider Types Affected

Providers and physicians who bill Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs), regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs), and carriers, including durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs) and DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs)

Key Points

- The purpose of MLN Matters Special Edition (SE) article SE0656 is to clarify for providers the information issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the date to end the contingency plan for ERAs.
- Effective October 1, 2006, Medicare will only generate Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant remittance advice – transaction 835 version 004010A1 – to all electronic remittance advice receivers.
- CMS issued instructions in Change Request (CR) 5047 that required a one-time hold of Medicare payments for the period of September 22, 2006, to September 30, 2006, for claims that would have been paid during the last 9 business days of fiscal year 2006. (See the *MLN Matters* article on CR5047 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5047.pdf> on the CMS web site.)
- CMS has further instructed that on or after October 1, 2006:
 - Any ERA for claims that would be held per CR5047 or for any other reason shall be created in the HIPAA compliant format.
 - Any duplicate remittance advice per provider request shall be created in the HIPAA compliant format, if electronic, or paper format.

- All legacy ERA receivers need to transition to a HIPAA compliant ERA format between now and October 1, 2006. The following are the options available to providers as a legacy ERA receiver:
 - Start receiving HIPAA compliant ERAs beginning on October 1, 2006.
 - Request to switch to Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) advice.
 - If providers are already receiving an SPR and do not want to receive the HIPAA compliant ERA, they can notify their Medicare FI, DMERC/DME MAC, RHHI, or carrier to stop sending any ERA.
 - If providers are not currently receiving SPR and do not wish to switch to HIPAA compliant ERA, they can notify their Medicare FI, DMERC/DME MAC, RHHI, or carrier that they would like to start receiving SPR and not receive any ERA.
- There are tools available to providers to view and print the remittance advice information using free Medicare software (PC Print for institutional providers and Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) for professional providers and suppliers).
 - These free software packages are 835 version 004010A1 compatible and will not work with any legacy ERA.
 - Both software packages have important advantages over the SPR.
 - Both packages can also be used to generate a hard copy remittance to be sent for secondary/tertiary billing and for accounts receivable reconciliation.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0656.pdf>

To learn about more MREP benefits, providers can download the brochure available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/remit_easy_print.pdf on the CMS web site.

Providers can view MLN Matters article SE0611 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0611.pdf> or a related MLN Matters article (MM4376) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4376.pdf> on the CMS web site.

If affected providers have any questions or want more information about the MREP software and how to receive the HIPAA 835, they should contact their FI, RHHI, carrier/DMERC/DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS web site.

Medicare Part B Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) helpline phone numbers are available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/Downloads/MedicarePartBEDIHelpline.pdf> on the CMS web site. Those billing for Part A services can find the appropriate toll free number at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/Downloads/MedicarePartAEDIHelpline.pdf> on the CMS web site.