



## Provider Inquiry Assistance

### Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC), Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC), and Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Update – JA6604

JA6604 was revised to add a reference to MLN Matters® article MM7218, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7218.pdf>, to alert providers that effective July 1, 2001, the MREP software is being modified to be compatible with Microsoft Windows 7, Vista, and XP operating systems.

Related CR Release Date: August 28, 2009 **Revised**

Date Job Aid Revised: February 28, 2011

Effective Date: October 1, 2009

Implementation Date: October 5, 2009

**Key Words** MM6604, CR6604, R1804CP, Remittance, CARC, RARC, MREP

- Contractors Affected**
- Medicare Carriers
  - Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)
  - Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
  - Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)
  - Durable Medical Equipment MACs (DME MACs)

**Provider Types Affected** Physicians, providers, and suppliers who submit claims to Medicare Carriers, FIs, RHHIs, A/B MACs, and DME MACs for services



Change Request (CR) 6604 announces the latest update of RARCs and CARCs, effective October 1, 2009.

**Provider Needs to Know...**

- The lists at the end of the Additional Information section of MLN Matters® MM6604 summarize the latest changes to the CARC and RARC, as announced in CR6604.
- This list includes:

- New, modified, and deactivated CARC codes, and
- New, modified, and deactivated RARC codes.
- The CARC and RARC lists are posted at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/Codes> on the Washington Publishing Company website.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) tool to help the search for a specific category of Remark Code is available at <http://www.cmsremarkcodes.info> on the CMS website.

**Background**

- The reason and remark code sets are used to report payment adjustments in remittance advice transactions. The reason codes are also used in some coordination-of-benefits transactions.
- The RARC list is maintained by CMS and used by all payers. Additions, deactivations, and modifications to it may be initiated by any health care organization.
- The CARC list is maintained by a national Code Maintenance Committee that meets when X12 meets for their trimester meetings (occurring in January/February, June, and September/October) to make decisions about additions, modifications, and retirement of existing reason codes.
- The RARC list and the CARC list are updated 3 times a year – in early March, July, and November.

**Operational Impact**

N/A

**Reference Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6604.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6604) regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1804CP.pdf> on the CMS website.