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## *Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advice Changes*

### Key Words

CR3645, MM3645, SPR, FI, ERA, 835, Remittance

### Provider Types Affected

All Medicare providers that bill Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is July 1, 2005.
- The implementation date is July 5, 2005.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has instructed FIs to do the following:
  - Discontinue sending SPRs to providers, billing agents, clearinghouses, or other entities representing providers that have received electronic remittance advices (ERAs) for at least 30 days, effective July 1, 2005.
  - Discontinue including their telephone number on their SPRs effective July 1, 2005.
- Publication 100-4, Chapter 22, Section 40.1 of the Medicare Claims Processing Section of the Internet Only Manual (IOM) states: "FIs allow providers to receive a hard copy remittance in addition to the 835 during the first 30 days of receiving ERAs and during other testing. After that time, FIs do not send a hard copy version of the 835, in addition to the electronic transmission, in the production mode."
- FIs should contact CMS if this requirement causes undue hardship on a particular provider.
- All FIs did not discontinue mailing SPRs following successful transmission of 835s to providers that requested transmission of 835s.
- CMS is now requiring that all FIs enforce this requirement effective July 1, 2005.
- FI SPRs currently contain the contractor phone number, but their ERAs do not.
- CMS prohibits inclusion of information in an SPR that is not reported in ERA transactions to eliminate a possible incentive for receipt of an SPR in lieu of an 835.

Related information is provided in SE0451 titled, "Guidance Regarding Elimination of Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advice Notices in the Old Format," which may be found at:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0451.pdf> on the CMS website.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3645.pdf>

The official instruction issued to FIs regarding this change may be found at  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R438CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If affected providers have any questions, they should contact their carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.