



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM4376

Date Posted: March 21, 2006

Related CR #: 4376

## *Suppression of Standard Paper Remittance Advice (SPR) to Providers and Suppliers Also Receiving Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) for 45 Days or More*

### Key Words

MM4376, CR4376, SPR, ERA, Remittance, MREP, Software, R885CP, Advice

### Provider Types Affected

All Medicare providers, physicians, suppliers, and qualified non-physician practitioners billing Medicare Carriers and Durable medical equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs)

### Key Points

- The implementation date is June 1, 2006.
- Change Request (CR) 4376 provides notice that beginning June 1, 2006, carriers and DMERCs will stop sending SPRs to the provider (or a billing agent, clearinghouse, or other entity representing the provider) if the provider has been receiving 835s or ERA transactions, either directly or through a billing agent, clearinghouse, or other entity representing the provider, for 45 days or more.
- The *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 22, Section 40.1, Remittance Advice, describes the instructions issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to carriers and DMERCs.
- The section instructs carriers and DMERCs to eliminate SPRs to those providers/suppliers who were receiving ERA transactions for 45 days or more.
- Providers should contact their clearinghouse/vendor to determine if they provide similar software to print the SPR.

### Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Key Points

- The MREP software was developed in response to comments CMS received from the provider/supplier community that they need a paper document for accounts reconciliation, and claim submission for secondary/tertiary payments.
- The output of MREP is similar to the current SPR format.
- Providers/suppliers who use the MREP software package can print paper remittances and reports that can be used to reconcile accounts receivable, as well as to create document(s) that can be included with claim submissions to secondary/tertiary payers.

## Benefits of MREP Software

The benefits of using MREP software include the following:

- Save time and money by printing remittance information directly from the computer the day the HIPAA 835 is available without waiting for the mail.
- Create and Print Special Reports: With MREP, providers can run, export, or print several useful reports including the following:
  - Deductible Service Lines Report: Shows claim service lines that have deductible amount
  - Adjustable Service Lines Report: Shows claims within a single remittance that have a claim status 22 (reversed claim)
  - Denied Service Lines Report: Shows only claim service lines that have an allowed amount of zero and are associated with a claim that does not have a claim status 22 (reversed claim)
- Print and Forward Claims for Other Payers.
  - MREP provides the ability to print remittance information for individual or multiple selected claims, and it allows the provider to forward only those claims that are needed by other payers for secondary payment.
  - The provider may view and/or print as many or as few claims as needed.
  - This eliminates the need for the provider to darken individually identifiable data on the SPR, as the provider may do today. This does not pertain to the claim for which the provider is requesting payment.
- Navigate and View Remittance Information.
  - MREP organizes and presents information in a manner that makes it easy to view.
  - It also provides separate tabs to access the following:
    - A list of claims;
    - Details for individually selected claims;
    - Summary information;
    - Glossary information containing Claim Adjustment Reason Codes (CARCs), Remittance Advice Remark Codes (RARCs), and their definitions;
    - A data view that allows providers to look at the various loops and segments containing data in the HIPAA 835; and
    - A search function to find claims containing specific information.
- Search for Claim(s) Information Quickly and Easily.
  - MREP's search function can help find a claim (or multiple claims) based on customized search criteria.
  - Using it, providers can search by names, numbers, and even portions of information such as:
    - Health Insurance Claim Number;

- Beneficiary Last Name;
- Internal Control Number;
- Beneficiary Account Number;
- Procedure Code;
- Service Date; and
- Rendering Provider Number.
- MREP's search capability provides a powerful way to save time and money when examining remittance information.
- Eliminate Need for Physical Filing and Storage Space.
  - MREP software imports a HIPAA 835 (once a provider has received it from their carrier/DMERC) and saves the information as a separate Import file to help ensure that the original HIPAA 835 file remains intact.
  - It also provides an easy-to-use method to archive, restore, and delete these Import files as the provider maintains their remittance records (further reducing the need for physical filing of printed copies and additional storage space).
  - As providers gain familiarity with the MREP software, they will be able to take advantage of the numerous keystroke shortcuts designed to streamline use of the software and save them time while viewing the remittance information.
- MREP software will be revised three times per year to accommodate CARC and RARC set changes.
- Providers can sign up to be notified automatically when a new version of MREP is available at their carrier's/DMERC's website.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R885CP.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4376.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0611.pdf>

To learn about more MREP benefits, download the brochure available at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/remit\\_easy\\_print.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/remit_easy_print.pdf) on the CMS website.

If providers have questions, please contact their Medicare carrier/DMERC at their toll free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

Medicare Part B Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) helpline phone numbers are available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans> on the CMS website.