

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Matters® Number: MM9466

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9466

Related CR Release Date: April 1, 2016

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3489CP

Implementation Date: July 5, 2016

Remittance Advice Remark and Claims Adjustment Reason Code and Medicare Remit Easy Print and PC Print Update

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers who submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

CR9466 updates the Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) and Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) lists. It also instructs Medicare system maintainers to update Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and PC Print. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes and obtain the updated MREP or PC Print software if they use that software.

Background

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, instructs health plans to be able to conduct standard electronic transactions adopted under HIPAA using valid standard codes. Medicare policy states that CARCs and RARCs, as appropriate, that provide either supplemental explanation for a monetary adjustment or policy information that generally applies to the monetary adjustment of a claim or service, are required in the remittance advice and coordination of benefits transactions.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) instructs MACs and Shared Systems, if appropriate, to conduct updates based on the code update schedule that

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results in publication of updated code lists three times a year (around March 1, July 1, and November 1).

Medicare's Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) are responsible for implementing appropriate code deactivation, making sure that any deactivated code is not used in original business messages, but the deactivated code in derivative messages is allowed. SSMs must make sure that Medicare does not report any deactivated code on or before the effective date for deactivation as posted on the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) website. If any new or modified code has an effective date past the implementation date specified in CR9466, MACs will implement on the date specified on the WPC website. The WPC website is available at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/Reference> on the Internet.

In case of any discrepancy in the code text as posted on WPC website and as reported in any CR, the WPC version should be implemented.

CR9466 advises the SSMs and MACs to perform the updates posted on the WPC based on the March 1, 2016 CARC and RARC code change lists.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR9466, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3489CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under “How Does It Work” on the CMS website.

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