

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Matters® Number: MM9562

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9562

Related CR Release Date: March 18, 2016

Effective Date: June 20, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3481CP

Implementation Date: June 20, 2016

Updates to Pub. 100-04, Chapters 3, 6, 7 and 15 to Correct Remittance Advice Messages

Provider Types Affected

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

What You Need to Know

Change Request (CR) 9562 informs MACs about revisions to Chapters 3, 6, 7 and 15 of the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual” to ensure that all remittance advice coding is consistent with nationally standard operating rules. It also provides a format for consistently showing remittance advice coding throughout the manual. CR9562 does not reflect any change in Medicare policy.

Background

Section 1171 of the Social Security Act requires a standard set of operating rules to regulate the health insurance industry’s use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions. Operating Rule 360: Uniform Use of CARCs and RARCs, regulates the way in which group codes, Claims Adjustment Reason Codes (CARCs) and Remittance Advice Remark Codes (RARCs) may be used. The rule requires specific codes which are to be used in combination with one another if one of the named business scenarios applies. This rule is authored by the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE).

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Medicare and all other payers must comply with the CAQH CORE-developed code combinations. CR8424 established a standard format for presenting these code combinations in the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual.” CR9562 updates Chapters 3, 6, 7 and 15 of the manual to reflect the standard format and to correct any non-compliant code combinations. CR9562 does not reflect any change in Medicare policy.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR9562, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3481CP.pdf> on the CMS website. The revised manual chapters are included in CR9562.

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.

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