



Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC), Claims Adjustment Reason Code (CARC), Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and PC Print Update

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11204

Related CR Release Date: March 15, 2019

Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4253CP

Implementation Date: July 1, 2019

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR11204 updates the Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) and Claims Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) lists and instructs the ViPS Medicare System (VMS) and Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) to update the Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and PC Print software. Be sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes and obtain the updated MREP and PC Print if they use that software.

BACKGROUND

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

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) instructs the MACs to conduct updates based on the code update schedule that results in publication three times per year – around March 1, July 1, and November 1.

CMS provides CR11204 as a code update notification indicating when the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) makes updated CARC and RARC lists available on its website. Medicare systems make required code deactivations, making sure that any deactivated code is not used in original business messages and allowing the deactivated code in derivative

messages. Medicare does not report any deactivated code on or after the effective date for deactivation as posted on the WPC website. If any new or modified code has an effective date later than the implementation date specified in CR11204, MACs must implement on the date specified on the WPC website (<http://wpc-edi.com/Reference/>).

A discrepancy between the dates may arise, as the WPC only updates its website three times per year and may not match the CMS release schedule. The MACs must get the complete list for both CARC and RARC from the WPC website to obtain the comprehensive lists for both code sets and determine the changes that are included on the code list since the last code update CR (CR10620).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11204, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R4253CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
March 15, 2019	Initial article released.

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