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Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

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Guidance for Part A Providers Switching to Electronic Remittance Advices (ERAs)

Note: This article was updated on April 9, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Providers who bill Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for Part A services.

Provider Action Needed

This Special Edition is to remind providers that FIs are prohibited from sending providers Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advices if the providers have switched to receiving electronic remittance advices (ERAs). This is effective the 31st day after providers switch to the ERAs.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Medicare Part A Implementation Guide 4A.01 for the ANSI ASC X12 835 Version 003051 Electronic Remittance Advice as a tool to provide assistance in the development and execution of the electronic transfer of remittance advice data and/or payment. The purpose of implementing the electronic RA is to expedite the goal of achieving a totally paperless claims processing and payment system.

The Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Publication 100-4, Chapter 22, Section 40.1 states that FIs can allow providers to receive a hard copy remittance in addition to the 835 during the first 30 days of receiving the ERAs and during other testing. After that time, FIs cannot send a hard copy version of the 835 to providers in addition to the electronic transmission. This same requirement was included in the Medicare Intermediary Manual, the predecessor of the current manual, for more than 5 years.

CMS recently issued a memorandum to its FIs when it came to their attention that FIs were not adhering to these requirements. The memorandum states that by January 1, 2005, FIs must terminate the issuance of SPRs to those providers (or billing agents, clearinghouses, or other entities representing providers) currently receiving ERAs and begin enforcing the termination of SPRs effective with the 31st day after providers switch to the ERA.

Additional Information

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For more information on ERAs, you may refer to the following website:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/index.html> on the CMS website.

You may also refer to Chapter 22 of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Publication 100-4, which can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs.html> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, you may also contact your FI at their toll free number, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

To speak to your FI's contact regarding a switch to ERAs, contact your FI's Electronic Data Interchange coordinator. Their phone number may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/index.html> on the CMS website.

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