



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

MLN Matters Number: MM10620

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10620

Related CR Release Date: May 18, 2018

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4057CP

Implementation Date: October 1, 2018

### **PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED**

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

### **PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED**

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Change Request (CR) 10620 updates the Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) and Claims Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) lists and instructs Medicare Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) to update Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) and PC Print. Be sure your staff are aware of these changes and obtain the updated MREP and PC Print software if they use that software.

### **BACKGROUND**

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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 MACs to conduct updates based on the code update schedule that occurs three times per year – around March 1, July 1, and November 1. CMS provides CR10620 as a code update notification indicating when updates to CARC and RARC lists are made available on the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) website. Medicare's SSMs have the responsibility to implement code deactivation, making sure that any deactivated code is not used in original business messages and allowing the deactivated code in derivative messages. SSMs must make sure that 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 past the implementation date specified in CR 10620, MACs must implement on the date specified on the WPC website available at <http://wpc-edi.com/Reference/>.

A discrepancy between the dates may arise because the WPC website is only updated three times per year and may not match the CMS release schedule. For CR 10620, MACs and SSMS 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 referenced in CR10489.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10620, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4057CP.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
May 18, 2018	Initial article released.

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