

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-20 One-Time Notification	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 13687	Date: March 19, 2026
	Change Request 14228

SUBJECT: Upload of Hospice Aggregate Cap Determination Letters and Hospice Filed Self-Determined Hospice Cap Documentation into the System for Tracking Audit and Reimbursement (STAR)

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to require Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to upload their documentation for the hospice aggregate cap determination and copy of the demand letter issued for the self-determined cap filed by hospices into the STAR system. The packages will be available to the hospice providers to access and download through the Medicare Cost Report e-Filing (MCR eF) system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 06, 2026

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: June 22, 2026

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-Only One Per Row.

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
N/A	N/A

III. FUNDING:

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

One Time Notification

Attachment - One-Time Notification

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II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: This change request is an instruction to the MACs to upload into the STAR system the demand letter issued for the hospice filed self-determined aggregate cap, and the MACs' hospice aggregate cap determination packages. The information will be made available for download in the Medicare Cost Report e-Filing system (MCR eF) to hospices. At this time, the instruction for the MACs to upload these review packages into the STAR system is not meant to replace the current process of mailing the documentation to the providers.

B. Policy: Hospice providers are required to file a self-determined hospice cap with the MACs yearly. The MACs perform a yearly review of the hospice cap and issue a hospice aggregate cap determination letter to hospices. The hospice aggregate cap determination is subject to reopening to properly state the amount due to the hospice providers.

III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
14228.1	The MACs shall upload the demand letter issued for the self-determined hospice cap determination into the STAR system within 30 days of issuing the demand letter.			X						
14228.2	The MACs shall upload the completed initial hospice aggregate cap determination packages sent to the hospices into the STAR system within 30 days of sending the			X						

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
	<p>completed aggregated cap determination letter to the hospice providers.</p> <p>Note: The MAC may choose to upload any additional document included in the aggregate cap determination excluding PHI.</p>									
14228.3	The MACs shall upload into the STAR system the revised aggregate cap determination reopening packages that result in overpayment or underpayments within 30 days of sending the completed aggregate cap determination letter to the hospice providers.			X						

IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION

CR as Provider Education: MACs shall use the content in the CR to develop relevant education material. Provide a link to the entire instruction in the education content. You can also supplement with local information that would help your provider community bill and administer the Medicare Program correctly. You don't need to separately track and report on this education.

Impacted Contractors: A/B MAC Part HHH

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A

VI. CONTACTS

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VII. FUNDING

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ATTACHMENTS: 0