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Additional Processing Instructions to Update the Standard Paper Remit (SPR)

MLN Matters Number: MM11289
Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11289
Related CR Release Date: May 21, 2019
Effective Date: October 1, 2019
Related CR Transmittal Number: R2307OTN
Implementation Date: October 7, 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

CR 11289 is to provide additional instructions to the MACs to update the SPR to ensure that no SPR is mailed out after the implementation of this CR with a Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) or Social Security Number per the Social Security Number (SSN) Fraud Prevention Act of 2017. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

The Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017 restricts the inclusion of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) on documents sent by mail no later than September 15, 2022.

Effective October 1, 2019, MACs will mask the Patient Control Number field (also named the Patient CNTRL Number) or the Patient Account Number (ACNT) field on any print file used to create an SPR for mailing if it contains a HICN or SSN.

Notes: The Patient Control Number field is a “free format” field and the HICN or SSN could be present anywhere in the field. This direction does not affect SPRs used for the portal process.

MACs will check the Patient Control Number field or the ACNT field to see if there is a HICN or SSN anywhere within the field and, if so, the MACs will replace the first five digits of the HICN or SSN with capital Xs on any print file used to create an SPR for mailing. MACs shall follow the RRB HICN masking criteria defined in CR11112 to mask the Patient Control Number field or the ACNT field. Examples for reference are below.

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HICN Examples

- XXXXX7777A
- XXXXX7777C1

RRB HICN Examples

- AXXXXX1370
- WCAXXXXX2388
- CAXXXXX1

Note 1: This masking requirement does not apply to RRB numbers issued before March 1964, which included an alpha prefix and 6 digits; for example, A000000.

SSN Examples:

- XXXXX1234
- XXX-XX-1234

MACs will not mask the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11289, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R2307OTN.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
May 21, 2019	Initial article released.

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