

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



REVISED product from the Medicare Learning Network®

- [“Avoiding Medicare Fraud & Abuse: A Roadmap for Physicians”](#)  
Web-based Training (WBT)

MLN Matters® Number: MM 9050

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9050

Related CR Release Date: February 13, 2015

Effective Date: July 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R1467OTN

Implementation Date: July 6, 2015

## Reporting Force Balance Claim Payment on the Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) 835 and Cross Over Beneficiary 837 Claim Transactions

### Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers that submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health & Hospice (HH&H) MACs and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### What You Need to Know

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued CR 9050 to alert providers that Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) A7 will be replaced on July 1, 2015, by CARC 121 to report force balancing of Out of Balance (OOB) claims payment/adjudication.

### Background

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CR9050 modifies the way MACs report force balancing of OOB claim payment/adjudication. Currently, MACs are using CARC A7— Presumptive Payment Adjustment to report the balancing of OOB payments. CR9050 instructs MACs to use

#### Disclaimer

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CARC 121–Indemnification adjustment– compensation for outstanding member responsibility in place of A7. This will be effective July 1, 2015. In addition, MACs will use Group Code OA (Other Adjustment) as the required Group Code.

Finally, MACs will report offsetting of Veterans Affairs claims at the provider level using PLB code J1 "Non-Reimbursable" and an offsetting dollar amount.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction for CR9050 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1467OTN.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. The number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work?

**Seasonal Flu Vaccinations** - For information on coverage and billing of the influenza vaccine and its administration, please refer to [MLN Matters® Article #MM8890](#), “Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2014-2015 Season” and [MLN Matters® Article #SE1431](#), “2014-2015 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals.”

Also, check out the following resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Influenza \(Flu\)](#) web page for the latest information on flu including the CDC 2014-2015 recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza, antiviral information, CDC flu mobile app, Q&As, toolkit for long term care employers, and other free resources. Review the CDC’s [Antiviral Drugs](#) website for information about how antiviral medications can be used to prevent or treat influenza when influenza activity is present in your community, and view the updated “Influenza Antiviral Medications: Summary for Clinicians.” A CDC Health Update reminding clinicians about the importance of flu antiviral medications was distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network on January 9, 2015, and is available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00375.asp> on the Internet.

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