Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5032

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Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Update

Key Words

MM5032, CR5032, R927CP, MREP, Software, Read, Print, Update, ERA, SE0627

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare Carriers, including Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs), for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is October 1, 2006.

- The implementation date is October 2, 2006.

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed MREP software as a tool that providers can use to read and print an electronic remittance advice (ERA) in a human readable format.

- MLN Matters article MM5032 is based on Change Request (CR) 5032, which advises providers to use the MREP software to read and print the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant ERA for accounts reconciliation and crossover claims submission to secondary/tertiary payers.

- CR5032 also includes instructions for Medicare's system maintainer (VIPS) to update MREP software with additional functionalities, and directs carriers and DMERCs to test and communicate to the end-users about the software update.

- Providers who use the MREP software package can:

  - Print paper documentation that can be used to reconcile accounts receivable and

  - Create document(s) that can be included with claim submissions to Coordination of Benefits (COB) payers.

- The MREP software became available on October 11, 2005, to providers (Part B and DMERC) through their respective Medicare carriers/DMERCs, and it was updated this year in April and July.

- CMS created a process to receive suggestions from providers, Medicare contractors, and CMS staff in order to continuously improve and enhance MREP's functionality and effectiveness.

- A summary listing of the improvements to be implemented in the October 2006 update of MREP is included in the *Additional Information* section of MM5032.

    Note: This update to MREP software includes suggestions for improvements received before the cut-off date of March 15, 2006.

- Beginning June 1, 2006, Medicare contractors and DMERCs (and later, DME Medicare Administrative Contractors) will start suppressing the issuance of standard paper remittance advices (SPRs) to providers/suppliers, billing agents, clearing houses, or other entities representing providers, who also have been receiving electronic remittance advice (ERA) transactions for 45 days or more.

- MREP is an option for providers to print their own remittances at their own computer.

- After the October 2006 update, annual updates of MREP will be provided every October unless a critical error affecting production needs to be corrected.

- The software will also be updated three times a year to implement the Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) and Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) changes.

- A summary of the options for providers affected by this change is included in a Special Edition MLN Matters article, SE0627, which can be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0627.pdf* on the CMS website.

- Carriers/DMERCs will post a notice to their website on or after October 2, 2006, to alert affected providers that the new version of the MREP software is available for download and that the software includes the latest version of the CARCs and RARCs.

Important Links

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5032.pdf

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R927CP.pdf

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0627.pdf

Providers with any questions may contact their carrier/DMERC at their toll-free number, which may be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip* on the CMS website.