



## Suppression of the Standard Paper Remittance Advice (SPR) in 45 days if also Receiving Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA)

MLN Matters Number: MM10151

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10151

Related CR Release Date: August 4, 2017

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number:  
R18900TN

Implementation Date: January 2, 2018

### PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

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

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

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Change Request (CR) 10151 provides notice that beginning January 2, 2018, Medicare's Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) must eliminate issuance of Standard Paper Remittance Advice (SPRs) to those providers/suppliers (or a billing agent, clearinghouse, or other entity representing those providers/suppliers) who also have been receiving Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) transactions for 45 days or more. The shared system changes to suppress the distribution of SPRs were implemented in January 2006 per CR3991 (issued August 12, 2005, Transmittal 645). Make sure your billing staffs are aware of the suppression of the SPR.

### BACKGROUND

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The SPR is the hard copy version of an ERA. MACs, including Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs must be capable of producing SPRs for providers/suppliers who are unable or choose not to receive an ERA. The MACs and the DME MACs suppress distribution of SPRs if an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) enrolled provider/supplier is also receiving ERAs for more than 31 days for Institutional Health Care Claims (837I) and 45 days for DME and Professional Health Care Claims (837P). Internet-Only-Manuals (IOMs), MLN Matters Article MM4376 provided information to the MACs regarding the receipt of SPR and ERA distribution time lines.

Beginning February 14, 2018, the SSMs shall suppress the delivery of SPR to the MACs EDI enrolled providers/suppliers who are also receiving both the ERA and SPR. In rare situations

(such as natural or man-made disasters) exceptions to this policy may be allowed at the discretion of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). MACs will not send a SPR/hard copy version to a particular provider/supplier unless this requirement causes hardship and CMS has approved a waiver requested by your MAC.

**Note:** MM4376 is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4376.pdf>.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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The official instruction, CR10151, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R1890OTN.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

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Date of Change	Description
August 7, 2017	Initial article released.

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