Electronic remittance advice -- what you need to know

Background and resources

What is Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA)?

ERA is the electronic version of the standard paper remittances (SPR) that notify providers, billers, and suppliers of their claim payments and adjustments. These electronic notifications provide the same information that is found on the SPR, as well as additional information, including additional data and administrative efficiencies, not available in an SPR.

How is ERA generated, and how can the information be viewed?

The ERA is produced in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 - Compliant Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12N 835 format, often referred to as Transaction 835. This file is not easily readable and must be converted to a readable format. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides free software for use in the conversion.

- For Part A: PC-Print
- For Part B: Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP)

ERA resources

- Health Care Payment and Remittance Advice provides information on ERA and companion documents for assistance with receiving the Transaction 835:
  https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/index.html?redirect=/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/11_Remittance.asp

- Medicare Claims Processing Manual, chapter 22, section 40 provides detailed information on the background and process of generating the Transaction 835: https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c22.pdf

- PC-Print is free software provided by CMS for Part A providers: http://medicare.fcso.com/PC-print_software/

- MREP is free software provided by CMS for Part B providers: http://medicare.fcso.com/MREP/

- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Enrollment form is the form for Medicare providers who want to apply for or revise existing information pertaining to ERA: http://medicare.fcso.com/EDI_forms/137486.pdf

- Frequently asked questions on ERA and PC-Print for Part A providers: http://medicare.fcso.com/FAQs/205645.asp

- Frequently asked questions on ERA and MREP for Part B providers: http://medicare.fcso.com/FAQs/205762.asp