

TO: All Providers

FROM: CareFirst of Maryland Medicare Part A

DATE: June 13, 2005

SUBJECT: Medicare Remittance Advice (RA) Initiative

A reference document titled *Understanding the Remittance Advice: A Guide for Medicare Providers, Physicians, Suppliers, and Billers* is now available on the Medicare Learning Network's (Medlearn) web page located at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/RA_Guide_05-27-05.pdf on the CMS website. Chapters 1 and 2 describe a Remittance Advice (RA) and the components of an RA. For institutional providers, Chapter 3 includes a sample Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) and Standard Paper Remittance Advice (SPR) with field descriptions. Chapter 4 includes a crosswalk between ERA and SPR fields and a sample SPR with field descriptions, specifically for professional providers. At the end of Chapters 3 and 4, providers can find information on remittance balancing. Print the chapter that fits your needs! The guide also includes informative resources such as an acronym list, a glossary, and important websites and phone numbers. Finally, the guide has three comprehensive indexes: 1) for key terms and concepts; 2) for institutional ERA and SPR field descriptions; 3) professional SPR field descriptions. Check it out today!

Take advantage of faster communication, payment information and reduction of paperwork by receiving an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA). Stop receiving that Standard Paper Remittance Advice (SPR) if you no longer need it because you already receive the ERA. Please contact our EDI department at 410-561-4145 or 410-561-4299 and ask to receive the ERA and/or cancel the SPR today!

Source: Joint Signature Memorandum-05378, 06-09-05

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