



## CMS Section 508 Program Tip #3: Color used as Sole Method to Convey Meaning



This Monthly Tip Series falls under the Program Pillar of Policy and Program Administration.

The use of color as the sole means to convey meaning carries a “high impact” consideration and should be prioritized during development and remediation.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

If color is used as the sole method to convey meaning, color blind users will be disadvantaged as they are unable to perceive the intended meaning due to the inability to recognize varying colors.

### WHAT TO DO

Always ensure that links and other interactive controls do not rely on color alone and have obvious indications such as being underlined or bolded when in a paragraph to differentiate them from surrounding content.

Use icons and/or text to ensure inactive controls do not solely rely on color to convey their statuses. Include error text in form fields and do not only use colored borders.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the use of color as the sole means to convey meaning and related techniques, please visit the WCAG 2.0, [Guideline 1.4.1, Use of Color](#).

### Disclaimer

In accordance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (29 U.S.C. 794d), CMS Section 508 Program team is committed to ensuring that the content is accessible to all viewers. Send feedback or concerns related to the accessibility of this website to the CMS Section 508 Program team at [CMS Section 508 General Resource Mailbox](#).