

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Center for Medicare

DATE: April 21, 2011

TO: All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations

FROM: Cheri Rice /s/
Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group

SUBJECT: ECRS Flat File Submission Changes

As part of its April systems release, the Coordination of Benefits Contractor (COBC) created an enhancement to Electronic Correspondence Referral System (ECRS) Web to distinguish between Part C and Part D plan submissions. As a result, a new field was added to the Header in all three file layouts for ECRS Flat File Submissions. This new data field is called 'Submitter Type' and is displacement 23 in the header layout. This data field has a record length of 1 and should be populated with either a 'C' or a 'D' depending upon whether you are submitting for a Part C or a Part D plan.

Notification was sent to the plans regarding the ECRS Web on-line changes in March 2011, but information regarding submission via the flat file was inadvertently overlooked. Failure to populate this field results in the entire file failing at the header level. The "HE06" error is returned to contractors that do not specify the Part C/D "Submitter Type" on their flat file submission. The "HE06" is triggered if the contractor number began with 'E', 'H', 'R' or 'S' and the 'Submitter Type' field is left blank. Any file submission that failed with an "HE06" error should be resubmitted by the plans after correcting to include the Submitter Type value. The COBC is not able to correct previously submitted files.

We apologize if you did not receive these modified ECRS file layouts. Please see the attached *ECRS PDP Flat File Installation Guide* for additional information. Should you need further clarification please contact Bill Ford at 646-458-6613.