

CMS-Additional Processing Instructions to Update the Standard Paper Remit (SPR)

May 24, 2019

The Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017 restricts the inclusion of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) on documents sent by mail no later than September 15, 2022.

Effective October 1, 2019, MACs will mask the Patient Control Number field (also named the Patient CNTRL Number) or the Patient Account Number (ACNT) field on any print file used to create an SPR for mailing if it contains a HICN or SSN.

Notes: The Patient Control Number field is a “free format” field and the HICN or SSN could be present anywhere in the field. This direction does not affect SPRs used for the portal process.

MACs will check the Patient Control Number field or the ACNT field to see if there is a HICN or SSN anywhere within the field and, if so, the MACs will replace the first five digits of the HICN or SSN with capital Xs on any print file used to create an SPR for mailing. MACs shall follow the RRB HICN masking criteria defined in CR11112 to mask the Patient Control Number field or the ACNT field. Examples for reference are below:

HICN Examples

- ⇒ XXXXX7777A
- ⇒ XXXXX7777C1

RRB HICN Examples

- ⇒ AXXXXX1370
- ⇒ WCAXXXXX2388
- ⇒ CAXXXXX1

Note 1: This masking requirement does not apply to RRB numbers issued before March 1964, which included an alpha prefix and 6 digits; for example, A000000.

SSN Examples:

- ⇒ XXXXX1234
- ⇒ XXX-XX-1234

MACs will not mask the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).