

How errors are identified

When either a CMS-2728 or CMS-2746 form is processed, an answer for most fields is required by the computer system.

Normally, facilities must be contacted to find out missing data, but a few fields can be determined by the Network without contacting the facility. Whenever additional time and effort is required to obtain missing or incorrect data, the form is marked as incomplete and drops your facility's Compliance Percentage.

Incorrect fields that can show up on your Compliance Report which did not require contacting facility staff are:

Social Security Number

The Network receives Notifications from the Social Security Administration (via CMS) identifying various mismatched or missing information about ESRD patients, including patient social security numbers. If a SSN is found to have been submitted incorrectly on a form, both our patient data base and the original form is corrected, and the form marked as Incorrect.

Zip code

A patient's city and state is inserted by the computer system simply by entering their zip code. If the computer doesn't find the corresponding city for a zip code, or if the zip code is missing altogether from the form, a search for the correct zip code is done at the US Postal Service website (<http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp>), and the form is marked as Incorrect.

Primary Cause of Renal Failure

If only a very clear, legible description is given on the form, sometimes the correct code can be selected without contacting the facility, but the form is marked as Incorrect.

Facility Medicare Provider Number

Each ESRD Medicare-approved dialysis or transplant facility is given a Medicare provider number by CMS which specifically identifies that facility. So receiving forms from approximately 250 dialysis and transplant facilities in Network #12 demands an appropriate provider number on each form.

- If only the facility's name is provided, a search of our data base is made to determine the correct provider number.
- If neither the facility name or provider number is given, the data base is searched by the signing physician to determine which facility or facilities he or she is attached.
- As a last resort, various facilities are called until the patient's correct facility is identified.
- The form is marked as Incorrect.

If Non functioning, Date of Return to Regular Dialysis

A date of return to dialysis is required for all patients who have a kidney transplant rejection. The date supplied in Block #24 (new form) is entered into this field, as well as previous transplant information, and the form is marked as Incomplete.

Signing Physician's UPIN

Every nephrologist is assigned and identified by a UPIN (unique physician identification number). When entering data into the computer system, only the UPIN is entered and the computer displays the physician's first and last names and telephone number.

- When the UPIN is missing, a search of the data base is made by the physician's name to obtain the correct UPIN.
- If an incorrect UPIN is given, a search must also be done to determine the correct UPIN and physician.
- If the physician's signature is illegible and a UPIN is not given, the facility must be contacted to identify who signed the form.

These forms are marked as Incorrect in the above instances. This is the only exception:

- If a physician signs the form who is not in our data base, a search is done at the website of the agency which assigns the numbers (http://www.upinregistry.com/provider_form.asp) so that the appropriate information can be entered into our staff data base.