

Changes to CMS's ESRD Provider Public Use File

(Additional information added 01/22/04 has been labeled "NEW.")

Background

The End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Provider Public Use File is a collection of information about facilities certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Medicare ESRD program.

From 1995 until July 2003, the Public Use File was extracted from the Renal Beneficiary and Utilization System, a mainframe-based computer application system. In July 2003, REBUS was replaced by REMIS (the Renal Management Information System), a midtier-based relational database application system. In July 2003, REMIS rather than REBUS became the physical implementation of the congressionally-mandated ESRD Program Management and Medical Information System. REMIS relies on SIMS, the ESRD Networks' Standard Information Management System, for provider data.

Effective December 2003, the ESRD Provider Public Use file will be produced and posted to CMS's Internet site on a monthly basis. The file is based on SIMS, which is updated by the ESRD networks on a continuing basis. (The record layout shows the names of the table and field in SIMS from which the reported information is derived.)

In the past, the ESRD Provider PUF could only accommodate one physical address and one phone number for each CMS provider number, even in the case of separate dialysis and transplant facilities. This revision of the PUF will allow separate phone numbers and addresses to be shown.

Changes to the Public Use File

There are three main categories of changes to the file: documentation changes; record specification changes; and inclusion changes.

NEW Documentation changes

The first two records in the file show the date the information was taken from SIMS and the number of records.

EXAMPLE:

As of Date: 12/31/2003

Record Count: 4621

Inclusion changes

In the past, the ESRD Provider PUF included one record for each CMS six-position provider number. Effective October 2003, the PUF will include one row for each facility separately identified by SIMS, the ESRD Networks' Standard Information Management

System. The six-character CMS provider number may be used to group together facilities that in prior versions were represented by only one row in the ESRD Provider PUF. As in the past, only facilities certified by CMS will be included in the file.

Record specification changes

Fields moved

Many of the fields have new starting positions and lengths. Please refer to the record specification.

Fields modified

Provider name: length changed.

Address1: length changed.

Address2: length changed.

City: length changed (shortened).

Services (fields 8 through 15 in old layout, 8 through 23 in new layout): The information here is reported by the facilities to their ESRD networks. Several new services have been added; several little-used services have been removed. “Transplant” and “Practices Dialyzer Reuse” are now shown as services.

Fields removed

Fields that in prior versions of the file were outdated, sparsely populated, left empty, or reserved for future use are no longer present in the file or the record specification. The fields that have been removed are:

Field 7 (for future use)

Field 19 (Survey Cert) – values were redundant in old layout; see Certification Type

Field 20 (Prior Cert Date)

Field 21 (Prior Cert Type)

Field 23 (Termination Reason)

Field 24 (Prior Term Date)

Field 25 (Prior Term Reason)

Field 26 (unassigned)

Field 27 (Intermediary)

Field 31 (MSA)

Field 32 (SSA County Code) – field retained blank; not yet populated

Field 33 (FIPS Geographic Code)

Field 34 (unassigned)

Field 36 (Convert Number)

Field 37 (FY End)

Field 41 (Skeleton Record)