The Overpunch Character Map reference document assists users in reading text file formatted reports available in the CGDP Portal.

The reports contain monetary fields formatted with overpunch characters, which is a code used to designate and store the positive or negative sign of a number by updating the last digit. The overpunch feature is part of the Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code (EBCDIC) format. Because a Prescription Drug Event (PDE) complies with the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) format, PDEs must be submitted in EBCDIC.

The Overpunch Character Map reference document, below, provides examples of overpunch for user understanding.

This column indicates the number that your symbol will convert to.

Notice the **POSITIVE** and **NEGATIVE** headers. If the letter or symbol falls in the POSITIVE column the entire number will be positive. If the letter or symbol falls in the NEGATIVE column the entire number will be negative.

The two columns house the symbols that will be converted to a numeric character …Example: H = 8   Q = -8

Unit	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
0	{	}
1	A	J
2	B	K
3	C	L
4	D	M
5	E	N
6	F	O
7	G	P
8	H	Q
9	I	R

In the example, **00000000035A**, the **A** converts to the number one (1) making the number 351. Because this is a monetary field and the decimal is implied the true monetary value is $3.51. The number is considered positive because the letter **A** falls under the "Positive" column.

In the example, **00000000035P**, the **P** converts to the number seven (7) making the number 357. Because this is a monetary field and the decimal is implied the true monetary value is $3.57. The number is considered negative because the letter **P** falls under the "Negative" column.