
Encounter Data User Group Q&A Documentation

Questions and Answers – October 18, 2012 Live Session

Q1: How do MAOs and other entities submit Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and Home Health (HH) encounters if the MAOs do not receive sufficient data to populate all of the required data elements for the X12N 837 format due to the MAO's and provider's billing agreement?

A1: Chapter 10 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual states the following: "The Social Security Act at §1862 (a)(22) requires that all claims for Medicare payment must be submitted in an electronic form specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, unless an exception described at §1862 (h) applies. The electronic form required for billing home health services is the ANSI X12N 837 Institutional claim transaction." MAOs and other entities must follow the same guidelines and submit SNF/HH encounter data on the 837-I format. CMS will coordinate with MAOs and other entities that require assistance with resolution of X12N 837-I encounter data submission.

Q2: How will CMS monitor the submission of catch-up production data if MAOs and other entities are unable to meet the semi-monthly deadlines, but are able to complete submission by the final deadline of March 2013?

A2: The goal for submission of catch-up production data is to provide MAOs and other entities with a manageable plan for submission and for the EDS to receive stable volumes of encounter data. CMS encourages MAOs and other entities to remain on a consistent submission schedule.

Q3: What is the submission process for SNF and HH encounters that MAOs and other entities receive on a HCFA1500 form?

A3: SNF and HH encounters must be submitted on an 837I.

Q4: Is there an edit in place to monitor the requirement for adjustment encounters to be submitted within 30 days of adjudication of the adjusted encounter?

A4: CMS does have an edit in place for timely filing of adjustment encounters. However, this edit is applicable for encounters that are adjusted after the "13 months from DOS" timely filing period.

Q5: What is the point of contact to obtain materials for the semi-monthly User Group sessions if MAOs and other entities do not receive the materials prior to each session?

A5: MAOs and other entities that are registered to participate in the semi-monthly User Group sessions and have not received the User Group materials prior to each session should contact the User Group Registrar at 888-330-9994 or email the Registrar at TARegistrations@tarsc.info.

Q6: Should MAOs and other entities continue to refrain from submission of Swing Bed and Critical Access Hospital (CAH) encounters?

A6: CMS has identified Swing Bed and CAH as components of SNF. MAOs and other entities may begin submitting these encounters, along with SNF and HH encounters, on or after November 26, 2012.

Q7: If a Third Party Submitter (TPS) has received certification notice for end-to-end testing, are the MAOs for whom they submit encounter data required to certify separately?

A7: If a TPS has achieved end-to-end certification for Professional, Institutional, and DME data, all organizations for whom the TPS submits encounter data are not required to certify separately; neither is the TPS required to recertify.

Q8: How should MAOs and other entities reconcile encounters that receive Institutional error code 98325 “Exact Duplicate of a Service Line within this Claim or a Previously Priced Claim” when the edit is received due to line duplication to indicate multiple modifiers?

A8: CMS is developing a system enhancement to the Institutional duplicate logic, which will incorporate CPT/HCPCS modifiers. Once CMS implements the enhancement, MAOs and other entities should resubmit any Institutional encounters that received error code 98325 due to different modifiers.

Q9: How should MAOs and other entities reconcile encounters for Home Infusion that receive error code 32030 “Place of Service is Not 11 or 23”?

A9: CMS is developing a system enhancement to error code 32030 that will add Place of Service (POS) 12 “Home” to the edit logic. Once CMS implements the enhancement, MAOs and other entities should resubmit any encounters that received error code 32030 due to the use of POS 12.

Q10: If an existing MAO or other entity transitions to a TPS to submit encounter data on their behalf, is the TPS accountable for submission of adjusted encounters received after the transition date and runoff period for the MAO?

A10: The termination guidance is a contract level requirement, not a submitter level requirement. The TPS should comply with the terms of their contract with the MAO.

Q11: How would MAOs and other entities submit true COB encounters received from additional payers without payment information?

A11: The submission of true COB encounter data requires that the payment information be populated in Loop 2320 for all payers and the encounter balances correctly. The EDS will reject the encounter if this field is blank.

Q12: Is there a validation check for modifiers in the duplicate logic for Professional encounter data?

A12: The Professional encounter data duplicate logic includes a validation check for up to four (4) modifiers.