



WHAT'S NEW WITH ENCOUNTER DATA?

The Encounter Data System (EDS) is midway through a great year, with many new submitters, end-to-end certification, and processing improvements! MAOs and other entities can find the latest information in this edition of the Encounter Data Quarterly Newsletter.

Test Your EDS IQ

(Answers can be found on page 5.)

Q1. How does CMS determine the submission frequency requirements for MAOs or other entities?

Q2. How should MAOs and other entities submit chart review encounters for the deletion of multiple diagnosis codes?

Q3. What is the difference between a “denied” and “rejected” encounter?

Q4. How should MAOs and other entities indicate that an encounter is inpatient or outpatient?



Operational Guidance

Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) and other entities may find the following information useful for encounter data submissions:

• ZIP Code + 4 Operational Guidance

- Effective May 9, 2013, MAOs and other entities must populate '9998' as the +4 default value when the true ZIP Code +4 value is unavailable.

• Submitting Historical Encounters

- MAOs and other entities must resubmit all EDS rejected encounters after they have been corrected and adjudicated through the MAO or other entities' internal system.
- If an MAO and other entity receives an original encounter and an adjustment encounter in the same submission period, the MAO and other entity may submit only the adjusted encounter to the EDS. If an MAO or other entity receives, adjudicates, and submits an original encounter in one submission, all subsequent adjustment encounters should be adjudicated and submitted to the EDS in another submission .

• CMS Fee-for-Service (FFS) Process Updates

- The EDPS is designed to process and price encounters based on FFS-like logic. When FFS releases updates, the EDS team performs the following actions:
 - Receives the updates from FFS maintainers.
 - Analyzes the updates and determines any impacts to the EDS.
 - Provides notification to MAOs and other entities if modifications are required to align EDS processing and pricing to any applicable FFS rules.

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**Best Practices
From the Industry**

**MAO-001 and MAO-002
Report Record Layouts**

Having difficulties reading the MAO Reports? Try using the Encounter Data Processing Status Report record layouts documents. Available on the CSSC Operations website, the layout documents break down the MAO Reports into easy to understand sections with descriptions to help MAOs and other entities understand MAO Reports more accurately.

EDPS Error Code Look-up Tool

Reconciling encounter errors from MAO-002 Reports are made simpler by utilizing the EDPS Online Error Code Look-up Tool on the CSSC Operations website. MAOs and other entities should use the Look-up Tool for easy reference to error code descriptions .

Tier II Testing Environment

CMS encourages MAOs and other entities to utilize the Tier II testing environment when they have questions or issues regarding edits received on EDFES Acknowledgement Reports or MAO-002 Encounter Data Processing Status Reports; and when they have new submission scenarios that they wish to test prior to submitting to production.

[\(cont'd on next page\)](#)

MAOs and other entities are required to submit encounter data according to the following guidelines:

Skilled Nursing Facility/Home Health (SNF/HH)

- MAOS and other entities must begin submitting Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) data for all SNF and HH encounters effective for July 1, 2013 Dates of Service (DOS) and beyond.
- Effective for July 1, 2013 DOS and beyond, all HH encounters must be submitted using the 837-Institutional format.

Foreign Claims

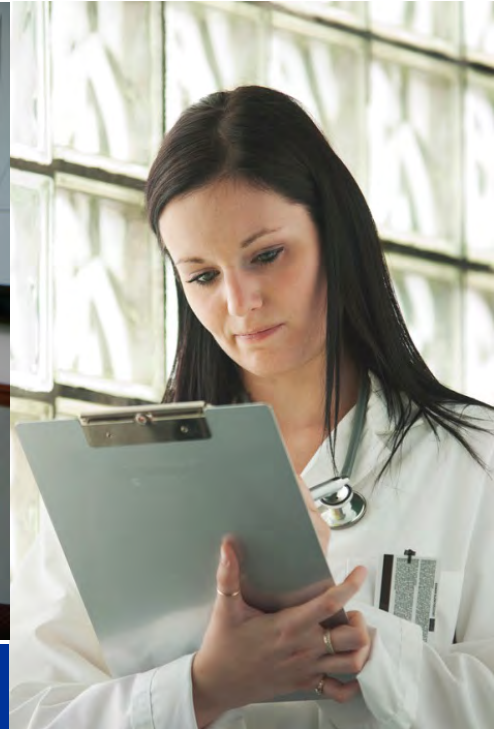
- CMS will not require MAOs and other entities to submit Foreign Provider encounters for 2012 and 2013 DOS.

HPMS Memo

- On May 1, 2013, CMS distributed a Health Plan Management System (HPMS) memorandum to MAOs and other entities titled "Additional Information Regarding the Mandatory Payment Reductions in the Medicare Advantage, Part D, and Other Programs."

RAPS Submission for Payment Year 2014

- CMS will use Risk Adjustment Processing System (RAPS) data submissions for risk adjustment calculations for Payment Year 2014.
- MAOs and other entities should continue to submit RAPS data for this purpose.
- MAOs and other entities are required to continue submitting data to the EDS for 2012 DOS and beyond.



Best Practices - Tier II Testing (cont'd from page 2)

CMS developed the Tier II testing environment to ensure that MAOs and other entities have the opportunity to test a more inclusive sampling of their data. MAOs and other entities that have obtained end-to-end certification may submit Tier II testing data.

MAOs and other entities may submit chart review, correct/replace, or void/delete encounters to the Tier II testing environment only when the encounters are linked to previously submitted and accepted encounters in the Tier II testing environment.

Encounter files submitted to the Tier II testing environment must comply with the TR3, CMS Edits Spreadsheet, and CMS EDS Companion Guides, as well as the following requirements:

- Files must be identified using the Authorization Information Qualifier data element “Additional Data Identification” in the ISA segment (ISA01= 03).
- Files must be identified using the Authorization Information data element to identify the “Tier II indicator” in the ISA segment (ISA02= 8888888888).
- Files must be identified as “Test” in the ISA segment (ISA15=T).
- Submitters may send multiple Contract IDs per file.
- Submitters may send multiple files for a Contract ID, as long as each file does not exceed 2,000 encounters per Contract ID.
- If any Contract ID on a given file reaches 2,000 encounters during the processing of the file, the entire file will be returned.

As with production encounter data, MAOs and other entities will receive the TA1, 999, and 277CA Acknowledgement Reports and the MAO-002 Reports.

While not required, MAOs and other entities are strongly encouraged to correct errors identified on the Tier II reports and resubmit data.

Do you have a best practice or success strategy to share? Please send suggestions to CMS at

eds@ardx.net

TARSC Has a New Look

The CMS Technical Assistance Registration Service Center (TARSC) website has a new look!

MAOs and other entities should visit the TARSC website to:

- Register for outreach
- Subscribe to receive updates
- Find the most current industry outreach information related to technical assistance like the following:
 - Encounter Data User Groups
 - National Technical Assistance
 - Encounter Data 101 Series



Visit the TARSC website at:
<http://www.tarsc.info>

Encounter Data 101

Registration re-opening soon for the Encounter Data 101 Webinar!

The Encounter Data 101 webinar, previously titled, "Getting Started", is designed for new 2013 submitters and all MAOs and other entities staff who would like a refresher of foundational information for Encounter Data. MAOs and other entities will be able to register once the rescheduled date is confirmed. Individuals who have already registered for the session will not have to register again when registration re-opens. Stay tuned for the new date for the session to be held Summer of 2013.



The Encounter Data 101 series includes the following topics:

- An overview of the encounter data flow process
- Technical requirements and resources available for submission of encounter data files
- Types of encounter data submissions
- EDFES and EDPS reports and how to review and reconcile the reports
- Best practices for the successful submission of encounter data

Register at:

<http://www.tarsc.info/RAandEDRegistration.aspx>

National Technical Assistance

The National Technical Assistance session will be conducted by webcast the Summer of 2013.

Test Your EDS IQ - Answers
(Questions can be found on page 1.)

- A1.** CMS used the February 2013 Health Plan Management System (HPMS) contract enrollment data to determine submission frequency requirements for each MAO or other entity.
- A2.** MAOs and other entities may submit a chart review encounter to delete multiple diagnosis codes by populating the multiple diagnosis codes in the Loop 2300 REF02 segment with a predetermined separator for each diagnosis code. The character used to separate the diagnosis codes must be different from the delimiter indicated for the 837.
- A3.** For EDS purposes, a claim/line is considered 'denied' if the MAO processes the claim/line, accepts the claim/line for services, but does not pay all or part of the claim/line charges. A claim/line is considered 'rejected' if the MAO cannot process the claim/line due to errors that prevent the claim/line from effectively passing the MAO's internal processing system. An example of this may be a two (2)-digit HCPCS code, which does not exist.
- A4.** MAOs and other entities should indicate whether a claim is outpatient or inpatient by the Type of Bill (TOB). Additionally, TOB 77X is classified as outpatient only. Effective April 1, 2010, the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) voted to change the TOB that is used to identify Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) from 73X to 77X.



Resources

Encounter Data System Information
www.cssoperations.com
cssoperations@palmettogba.com

Risk Adjustment Model Diagnoses
http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Risk_adjustment.html

X12 Version 5010 Standards
<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/HIPAA-Administrative-Simplification/Versions5010andD0/index.html?redirect=/Versions5010andD0/>

CEM/CEDI Technical Reporting Formats http://www.cms.gov/MFFS5010D0/20_TechnicalDocumentation.asp

Washington Publishing Company
<http://www.wpc-edi.com/content/view/817/1>

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*The **Encounter Data Quarterly Newsletter** is a CMS publication providing an overview of the latest developments in encounter data system operations, policies, and guidelines. For further information about the Encounter Data System, please visit www.cssoperations.com.*

*For questions regarding the **Encounter Data Quarterly Newsletter**, please contact eds@ardx.net.*