ENCOUNTER DATA
Quarterly Newsletter

CMS
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

IN THIS ISSUE

Please take a moment to give us your feedback regarding the Encounter Data Newsletter and provide recommendations for future topics.

Please complete the brief evaluation by clicking here.

Schedule Updates: Encounter Data Industry Update

CMS has conducted a series of 10 work groups since December 2010. Participants in these work groups have contributed greatly to development of guidance for encounter data. CMS has heard the industry's feedback and restructured the encounter data work group schedule to offer encounter data calls to the industry at large. The encounter data calls allow space for more participants and replace all originally scheduled work group sessions. Policy updates and operational guidance will be provided to further promote capabilities and preparations for systems testing and Encounter Data System (EDS) implementation. The next Industry Update will be held on May 25, 2011, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., EST.

2012 Announcement Highlights for Encounter Data

On April 5, 2011, CMS released the Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2012 Medicare Advantage Capitation Rates and Medicare Advantage and Part D Payment Policies. The announcement contains guidance and updates on encounter data collection and many other important policy decisions, including the following:

- Collection of encounter data on institutional and professional services begins January 1, 2012; Durable Medical Equipment (DME) collection begins May 7, 2012.
- As of January 1, 2012, the timing of data submissions for MA Organizations and Third Party submitters will change from quarterly to a more frequent schedule.
- 1876 Cost plans will continue submitting diagnostic data and are required to begin submitting encounter data on January 1, 2012.

Changes to DME Submissions

It has been determined that the EDS will not have the capacity to store DME encounters submitted for DME processing through CEDI, until the CEDI module has been implemented. Currently, DME claims should not be submitted until the scheduled DME testing date of February 9, 2012. DME claims will be submitted separately for encounter data. Submitters will need to submit three (3) files: one file for Institutional data; one file for Professional non-DME data; and one file for Professional DME data.

Regional IT TA Sessions for Encounter Data

Please visit www.tarsc.info to register for the 2011 Encounter Data IT Technical Assistance Sessions on June 21, July 12, and August 2, 2011. During these sessions, encounter data operational guidance will be provided on understanding the processing, ensuring compliance, and effectively using reports to reconcile submitted data.

Front End Testing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What should an MAO do if deciding to use a Third Party submitter after submitting the enrollment package?

The Third Party submitter is required to complete the Submitter ID Application and EDI Agreement posted at CSSC Operations. The MAO will also have to submit a letter of authorization on company letterhead to CSSC allowing the organization to submit encounter data on their behalf.

When do plans submit test data and how will they know the test was successful?

Plans now have between July 15, 2011 and August 15, 2011 to submit test files to the Encounter Data Front-End System (EDFES). When a plan submits encounter data test files, an acknowledgement (277CA) will be returned to them. Once the 277CA reflects all claims were accepted, the testing is considered successful.

Can front-end test files contain DME Supplier Encounter/Claims?

No. Testing of DME claims will have a separate timeline. Plans should extract DME supplier claims from the file before submitting the Professional (837-P) and/or Institutional (837-I) files.

Reddix & Associates