CMS
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

2012 Regional Technical Assistance

The upcoming 2012 Regional Technical Assistance training is scheduled for **August 6 – August 9, 2012** in **Baltimore, Maryland.** The 4-day event in Baltimore will include a **LIVE webcast** for MAOs and other entities who are unable to attend in person. The Encounter Data session will provide comprehensive coverage of Encounter Data operational and policy guidance. There will also be sessions on Risk Adjustment, Enrollment, Payment, and Prescription Drug Event (PDE).

Registration opens in May at www.tarsc.info. Register early, as the seats are limited.

The training session scheduled for **July 9 - 12** in **Las Vegas** has been **cancelled**.

ED Milestones

As of May 15, 2012, there are 109 submitters out of 218 that are certified for Professional end-to-end testing. Plans will begin to submit production data upon certification.

Institutional testing began on April 30, 2012 with production submissions to follow immediately. Additionally, DME guidance will be provided within the coming weeks. As a reminder, the testing dates are as follows:

	Testing Start Date	EDPS Testing	Testing Ends/ Certification Deadline
Professional Encounters	1/4/12	Test Cases Only	5/31/12
Institutional Encounters	4/30/12	Test Cases Only	6/30/12

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

Primary Help Desk Resources

Understanding your tools and resources will better assist you in obtaining answers to your questions. Below are the primary resources for your reference:

- **EDS Incident Tracking Tool** – provides support for any issues related to reports and edit logic based on the results of your analysis. www.csscoperations.com
- **CSSC Operations** – provides support for any encounter data processing issues. csscoperations@palmettogba.com
- **EDS Inbox** – provides operational guidance on encounter data submissions. eds@ardx.net
- **MAPD Help Desk** – provides technical assistance with connectivity and data exchange for the implementation of Medicare Parts C and D. mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov

Institutional Testing Updates

Tier 1 files are being accepted for end-to-end testing and must include a total of twenty-six (26) encounters as outlined in the Institutional Test Specifications found www.csscoperations.com. Tier 2 files are also being accepted. The Institutional Test Specifications document also provides guidance for Tier 2 testing. Please review the document thoroughly for the necessary submission guidelines.

ARDX
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