CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
CENTER FOR MEDICARE

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

EDS Testing Certification Updates

In June of 2012, CMS extended the certification deadline for Institutional and DME test case submissions to August 31, 2012 to allow time for the incorporation of system enhancements. As of August 29, 2012, 28% of MAOs and other entities are certified to submit Institutional production data and 17% are certified for DME. While the Professional certification deadline was May 31, 2012, 88% of MAOs and other entities are certified to submit production data. CMS will continue to monitor the submission of encounter data certification and encourages all submitters to certify as soon as possible. Plans that are not front-end certified will be contacted to determine if there is anything CMS can do to assist them with certification. Plans not front-end certified by September 19th may be subject to compliance measures.

The professional production data continues to increase. In a one week span, the submission data grew from 3,656,314 to 3,917,712 encounters processed. The acceptance rate has remained at 96%. MAOs and other entities will continue to receive MAO reports within the production window of 5 days. CMS encourages submitters who have achieved Professional, Institutional, and DME end-to-end certification to submit production data beginning with the earliest 2012 dates of service.

Additionally, on August 30, 2012 PACE organizations will be joining the 219 MAOs and other entities in the testing certification process for encounter data collection to ensure a thorough and successful implementation of the Encounter Data System.

EDS Testing Certification Lessons Learned

The submission of EDS Incidents and EDS Inbox questions provided CMS with valuable information, contributing to system enhancements and outreach opportunities. As a result, the volume of errors has decreased significantly:

- Member eligibility issues decreased by 50%, due to system enhancements and MAO and other entity verification that all beneficiary member data was current and existed in the MARx UI. Submission of valid and current beneficiary HICNs also lowered the number of reported beneficiary incidents.
- Duplicate errors (edit 98325) decreased by 90%, partially due to MAO and other entity validations that submission were not duplicates of previously submitted encounters, and service lines within encounters that contain the same duplicate logic elements as another service line on an encounter.

Best Practices From The Industry

During the 2012 Regional Technical Assistance (TA) session, three (3) MAOs and other entities provided insight on their organization's best practices for the successful submission of encounter data. Below are key highlights from the best practices discussion:
- Coordinate closely with Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and other departments to assist in the development, review, and testing of encounter data submissions.
- Develop a process to continuously train MAO and other entity staff on the EDS policy and operational guidance.
- Perform internal testing on a variety of data including: different provider types, types of bills, places of service, procedure codes, and revenue codes to ensure thorough and quality testing of the MAO or other entities' system.
- Actively participate in EDS outreach methods, such as User Group sessions, and review updates in the EDPS Bulletins and EDS Companion Guides.
- Ensure claims data stored in the MAO or other entities' system is error free prior to EDS submission.

ARDx
A. Reddix & Associates