
Encounter Data User Group Q&A Documentation

Questions and Answers – May 24, 2012 Session

Q1: Are there any future plans to require MAOs and other entities to submit encounters for pharmacy data?

A1: MAOs and other entities will continue to submit Part D pharmacy data through Prescription Drug Event (PDE) submission. Currently, CMS has no plans to alter the submission process for pharmacy data. Part B drugs may be submitted using the 837-P. CMS is currently finalizing additional details regarding the Part B drug data submission.

Q2: Will CMS schedule consultations with medium and large MAOs and other entities to coordinate submission of encounter data for dates of service from January 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012?

A2: CMS is working to develop a coordination process for submission of encounter data with dates of service from January 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012 that will meet the requirements of the processing system's infrastructure. MAOs and other entities will be notified once final decisions are made. While the process is under development, CMS is requesting that MAOs and other entities begin submitting these encounters beginning with January 2012 data.

Q3: If MAOs and other entities need to use a default NPI but have a valid EIN, should the valid EIN be submitted or should the default EIN associated with the default NPI be used?

A3: MAOs and other entities should use a valid NPI and EIN if it is available. CMS will investigate any potential impact this may have on encounter data submission and provide further guidance through the EDPS Weekly Bulletin and User Group sessions.

Q4: Will the encounter data compliance schedule be determined based on updates and/or changes to the requirements for encounter data submission?

A4: As MAOs and other entities continue to submit encounter data, CMS is better able to determine the necessary updates for the Encounter Data Processing System (EDPS) and will provide information regarding compliance once the system is stabilized.

Q5: Is it acceptable for MAOs and other entities to submit a default NPI for a covered entity?

A5: If an entity has an assigned NPI, MAOs and other entities must use that NPI when submitting encounters to the Encounter Data System (EDS). It is not ideal to submit a default NPI. CMS has provided default NPI values to accommodate the requirements of the EDS because paper claims and 4010 data do not require the use of an NPI.

Q6: Will MAOs and other entities receive an error message if the provider name submitted on an encounter is truncated?

A6: CMS will research the EDFES and EDPS to determine if an error will occur with the submission of a truncated provider name and provide guidance to the industry, if required.

Q7: Will CMS provide testing guidelines for Home Health and Skilled Nursing encounter data?

A7: CMS is assessing the EDS programming logic for submission of Home Health and Skilled Nursing encounter data. Once the logic is determined and the testing process is identified, CMS will provide guidance to the industry during future User Group sessions.

CMS will also schedule discussions with the industry to determine next steps for submission of these encounters.

Q8: Will MAOs and other entities be required to omit Home Health and Skilled Nursing data from production data submission after Institutional testing is complete?

A8: Yes. CMS is evaluating various options and approaches for inclusion of Home Health and Skilled Nursing data in submission of encounter data.

Q9: If the ambulance pick up location is not populated on the Professional or Institutional encounters, will those encounters be rejected?

A9: Yes, the encounters will be rejected. The EDS programming logic requires that the ambulance pick up location zip code be populated for Professional and Institutional encounters for pricing purposes. This will be reiterated in the June release of the Professional and Institutional Companion Guides.

Q10: Can MAOs and other entities use a Post Office Box address to populate the segments in the Professional and Institutional encounters that require ambulance pick up and drop off location information?

A10: No, a Post Office Box address cannot be used. MAOs and other entities should refer to the Professional and Institutional Companion Guides for the appropriate guidance for ambulance services submission information.

Q11: Will there be a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Companion Guide for MAOs and other entities to reference for submission of DME encounter data?

A11: Yes. CMS is currently finalizing the logic and developing guidance for DME business cases and testing. DME Work Group discussions will be scheduled for the industry to discuss the requirements for DME.

Q12: Does CMS expect MAOs and other entities with dual eligible beneficiaries to report Medicaid services and payments for encounter data?

A12: CMS is currently finalizing policy and operational guidance for submission of encounter data for dual eligible beneficiaries and will provide information to the industry as soon as it becomes available.

When submitting standard coordination of benefits information, MAOs and other entities should use the tertiary segments as identified in the Professional and Institutional Companion Guides.

Q13: Is CMS aware of connectivity issues occurring with MAOs and other entities using IVANs as a connectivity method?

A13: CMS is not aware of any issues occurring between IVANS and CMS. MAOs and other entities that are experiencing connectivity issues should contact the MMA Helpdesk for assistance at (800) 927-8069.

Q14: Will CMS perform additional User Group sessions beyond Thursday, June 7, 2012?

A14: There is one User Group scheduled for June 21, 2012. An updated User Group schedule will be announced during a User Group session and posted on the [TARSC website](#).