



Encounter Data User Group Q&A Documentation

Questions and Answers – December 15, 2011 Session

Q1: If providers submit information for referring, attending and other optional or situational providers, are MAOs and other entities required to submit valid NPIs for these?

A1: When MAOs or other entities submit NPIs for referring, attending, and other optional or situational providers they must be valid.

Q2: BHT06 states we should send “CH”. Is this accurate? Normally this value would be sent as “RP” since MAOs and other entities are sending an encounter and not a claim that requires reimbursement.

A2: In order to meet encounter data purposes, MAOs and other entities must submit BHT06 with a value of ‘CH’ (Chargeable). Even though the Encounter Data System is not providing reimbursement encounters follow the payer-to-payer model; therefore BHT06 must be populated with a value of ‘CH’ rather than ‘RP’ (Reportable).

Q3: Which encounters with errors does CMS store? If an encounter is accepted on the 277CA and assigned an ICN, but fails an edit at a later stage, does CMS store the encounter? Does failing a later edit mean the encounter will not be priced or used for risk adjustment? Should the MAO or other entity send a correction as an adjustment, using the ICN of the encounter that had the error?

A3: Errors can be generated at several different stages within the Encounter Data System. The first stage that errors can occur is during the Encounter Data Front-End System (EDFES), in which processing through the translator and CEM takes place. Errors at this stage generates the TA1, 999, and 277CA acknowledgement reports and will cause the MAO or other entity to resubmit the encounter. EDFES errors will not be stored in the Encounter Data Operational Store (EODS). Encounters that pass EDFES edits and receive an ICN, as reflected on the 277CA acknowledgement report, and continue processing through the Encounter Data Processing System (EDPS) will be stored in the EODS.

If an encounter passes front-end testing but does not pass EDPS editing, the MAO or other entity will be required to resubmit the encounter in order to be correctly priced and/or used for risk adjustment. For example, if a modifier does not match a procedure code, it will be processed as an invalid encounter and therefore, will be rejected and no further processing will take place.



Encounters that pass front-end editing but are rejected in the EDPS will need to be resubmitted as an adjustment to the original encounter using the ICN of the encounter that had the EDPS error.

Q4: Why is 5010 submission for DME claims separate from professional claims?

A4: There are two (2) different types of DME encounters that MAOs and other entities may submit. The first type is those DME provider services that are incident to a physician's services, which are edited by the CEM and should be submitted immediately. The second type is DME supplier services, which are not incident to a physician's services and are not edited by the CEM. DME supplier encounters are edited by the CEDI, which performs DME specific editing separately from the CEM. DME submission is separate because they are processed differently and edited by different systems. These encounters must be submitted according to the timeline for DME implementation.

Q5: Will CMS require the National Drug Code (NDC) number with the HCPCS code for pharmaceuticals as part of the encounter data submission?

A5: Currently, National Drug Codes (NDC) populated in Loop 2410 are not required for encounter data submission.

Q6: Will NPI be a required field for paper claims received by MAOs and other entities?

A6: Yes, NPI is a required field to populate for encounter data purposes.

Q7: Why was the requirement for MAOs and other entities to populate Loop 2000B, SBR09 with a value of "MB" for Professional encounters and "MA" for Institutional encounters and Loop 2320, SBR09 with a value of "16" for both Institutional and Professional encounters changed from what was originally communicated?

Will the companion guide be updated to reflect this new requirement for these values to be different?

A7: As internal and external front-end testing progressed, it was determined that in order for all encounters to successfully process and pass front-end edits, either clarified or different guidance specific to encounter data submission was necessary. Loop 2000B, SBR09 with a value of 'MB' for Professional encounters and 'MA' for Institutional encounters and Loop 2320, SBR09 with a value of '16' for both Institutional and Professional encounters was one of the elements that needed revised guidance. The Companion Guide released on November 16, 2011 reflects the revised requirement for these values.

As testing progresses, although it is not anticipated, it may be determined that other values will also require further or different guidance in order for encounters to successfully pass translator and CEM level edits successfully. If this is the case, CMS will provide this guidance in future



iterations of the Companion Guide and will make all attempts to provide additional technical assistance during User Group sessions.

Q8: Because of the 90-day non-compliance, when converting a 4010 to 5010, what happens when MAOs and other entities have to send required/mandatory information on 5010 that is optional on a 4010? Where will MAOs and other entities collect data that is not required for 4010?

A8: As stated in the update, CMS is currently working on options.

Q9: When MAOs and other entities process the 277CA file, there have been claims with following acknowledgement codes. For Example: STC*A1:19.

Is an encounter with a Claim Status Category Code of 'A1' considered as accepted or is there a case where these claims can be rejected?

A9: The Claim Status Category Codes (CSCC) indicate the general category of the status (accepted, rejected, additional information requested, etc.) which is then further detailed in the Claim Status Codes. The CSCC of 'A1' states that the Entity Acknowledges Receipt of a Claim/Encounter, which does not mean that the encounter has been accepted. The value of '19', the Claim Status Code (CSC), indicates that the Entity acknowledges receipt of claim/encounter and also identifies that an Entity Code is required. If an encounter is accepted, then the 277CA will also reflect an ICN in the REF segment.

Q10: Once Third Party submitters are certified through the end-to-end testing process in January 2012, can Third Party submitters continue to send test data for individual contracts (i.e. new MAOs who select us as their third party submitter)?

A10: Third Party submitters may continue to send test data for individual contracts once they are certified through the end-to-end testing process.