

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C1-13-07
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



MEDICARE PLAN PAYMENT GROUP

DATE: July 8, 2011

TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations, Part C Organizations, §1876 Cost HMOs/CMPs, §1833 HCPPs, and PACE Organizations

FROM: Cheri Rice /s/
Director

SUBJECT: Revised Medicare Advantage Encounter Data System (EDS) Front-End Industry Testing Schedule

Please be informed that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Encounter Data System (EDS) Front-End Industry Testing schedule has been revised. Front-End Industry Testing will now run from September 6 until October 4, 2011. Following the Front-End Industry Testing, the Encounter Data Processing System (EDPS) test case preparation and education will occur from October 5 until October 28, 2011. The Encounter Data System Institutional and Professional Processing and Pricing Sub-System End-to-End Testing/certification is still scheduled to run from October 31 until November 30, 2011. Additional information on the submission and processing of test files can be found on the CSSC website (www.csscoperations.com).

Encounter data submission in 2012 is contingent on successful end-to-end testing and certification. Your participation is crucial to CMS' efforts to ensure successful EDS implementation by January, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact the CSSC, at 1-877-534-CSSC (2772) or by e-mail at CSSCOperations@PalmettoGBA.com.