

HIPAA Addenda (version 4010A1) Testing and Support

Implementation of the addenda modifications (version 4010A1) to the Transactions and Codes Sets standards for electronic claims was published in the Federal Register on August 17, 2000 and adopted. The addenda modifications are posted on the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) Web site (see URL below).

- Medicare will be ready to begin to schedule testing and transitioning of EDI trading partners on version 4010A1 by April 7, 2003;
- Medicare plans to switch to exclusive use of the version 4010A1 by October 16, 2003;
- Each provider must submit all of their electronic claims, claim status inquiry, and eligibility inquiry in compliance with the requirements in the X12N 837 version 4010A1, by October 16, 2003;
- Each trading partner that has elected to exchange COB, remittance, claim status response, and eligibility response electronically must accept version 4010A1 by October 16, 2003;
- The addenda pages may be found at http://hipaa.wpc-edi.com/HIPAAAddenda_40.asp

837 Claim Transaction

Medicare is currently testing with EDI claim submitters on the inbound 837 version 4010A1 beginning April 7, 2003. All testing must be completed by **October 16, 2003**. Submitters should begin testing as early as possible.

EDI submitters that have successfully tested with the 837 version 4010 do not need to be tested again on 4010A1 unless you request retesting.

Free Billing Software

WPS makes available free billing software, PC-Ace Pro 32. The software will include the addenda upgrade (4010A1) and be available in April 2003. If you are interested in using PC-Ace Pro32, please contact our EDI Hotline.

835 Remittance Transaction

Medicare has the ability to conduct advanced, parallel system compatibility testing, free-of-charge, for electronic remittance 835 version 4010A1 with Vendors, Billing Services, Clearinghouses and Practitioners. In order to conduct testing, you must contact our office. When your office is able to successfully process the 835, you must notify our office to switch to production 835 version 4010A1. Testing is not required, but highly recommended.

276/277 Claim Status Inquiry and Response Transactions Testing

Testing of providers and clearinghouses on 276/277 is available, although neither providers nor clearinghouses are required to be tested on the 276/277 prior to use in production.

We expect a large volume of tests. WPS will provide test results within 10 business days. Test early! Don't be lulled into thinking that HIPAA will be further delayed or cancelled and you'll have more time to implement. If you fail to prepare, you may not be able to send electronic claims or receive electronic remittance, significantly impacting your business and cash flow. Additionally, if you fail to prepare, you (not the vendor) could be liable for the fines and penalties for non-compliance. October 16, 2003 is just a few months away. Will you be ready?

For additional information regarding Electronic Data Interchange issues, or to be set up for testing: call the WPS EDI Hotline for Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin at: (877) 567-7261; for Minnesota, call (866) 380-4742.

Reference: PMAB-03-026