



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3883

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Access Process for Beneficiary Eligibility Inquiries/Replies (HIPAA 270/271 Transactions) (Extranet Only)

Key Words

MM3883, CR3883, R583CP, Information, Technology, Infrastructure, Extranet, Access, Process, Form, MDCN, 270, HIPAA, 270/271, Transactions, MEIC, Resellers, Eligibility, Inquiries

Provider Types Affected

All physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is May 20, 2005.
- The implementation date is August 22, 2005.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is making changes to its Information Technology (IT) infrastructure to address standards for Medicare beneficiary eligibility inquiries.
- The necessary database and infrastructure will be created to provide a system for centralized Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant 270/271 beneficiary health care eligibility inquiry and response in real-time.
- In June 2005, only clearinghouses, certain providers, and trading partners will be permitted to send 270 transactions via the extranet.
- The extranet is a secure, closed, and private network used to transmit data between Medicare carriers and intermediaries, and CMS.
- A provider that prefers to obtain eligibility data in an electronic data interchange (EDI) format, but does not want to use the 270/271 Version 4010, may contract with a clearinghouse to translate the information on its behalf.
- The process for clearinghouses and providers to obtain access to the Medicare Data Communications Network (MDCN) via the extranet is as follows:
 - The 270/271 Access Form should be completed in full and submitted electronically.

- This form can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AccessstoDataApplication/03_MedBenEligInq.asp on the CMS website.
- The electronic submitted form will be directed to both CMS staff and the CMS' Medicare Eligibility Integration Contractor (MEIC).
- The CMS staff will ensure all the necessary information is provided on the form as well as ensure the complete connectivity to the 270/271 application.
- The MEIC will:
 - Contact the clearinghouses, providers, and trading partners to authenticate the accessing entity's identity;
 - Provide the clearinghouses, providers, and trading partners with a submitter ID that is required to be used on all 270/271 transactions, once authentication has been completed; and
 - Coordinate the testing.
- After successful testing, 270 production inquiries may be sent real-time.
- An entity must obtain the necessary telecommunication software from the AT&T reseller on its own to access the MDCN. The current AT&T resellers are:
 - IVANS: <http://www.ivans.com>
 - McKesson: <http://www.mckesson.com>

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3883.pdf> on the CMS website.

For complete details, including a list of data elements that will be provided in response to the 270 transaction, affected providers should see the official instruction issued to their Medicare carrier, including DMERCs, or FI regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R583CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If affected providers have any questions, they should contact their carrier/DMERC/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.