

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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CENTER FOR MEDICARE

TO: All Part D Sponsors

FROM: Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Upcoming Changes Affecting Information Reporting (Nx) Transactions and Automated TrOOP Balance Transfer

DATE: June 16, 2011

The purpose of this memorandum is twofold. First, we wish to announce that the Transaction Facilitator (formerly the TrOOP Facilitator) will be retiring the 2010 snapshot database on June 30, 2011. In a November 4, 2010 memorandum entitled, "Special Process for 2010 End-of-Year Non-Enrollment-Related 4Rx Changes," we described the process involving the creation by the Transaction Facilitator of a snapshot (static) database that was used to process Eligibility Verification queries (E1), Information Reporting transactions (N1, N2, N3) for supplemental payer claims information, and Financial Information Reporting (F1, F2, F3) for automated TrOOP balance transfer transactions with 2010 dates of service. This database continues to be used to process 2010 N transactions. The retirement of this database will have no affect on either the automated transfer of 2010 TrOOP accumulator data or the processing of E1 queries requesting 2010 plan enrollment information as both these processes ended March 31, 2011. We believe the June 30 date will provide sufficient time for the processing of 2010 N transactions, since the 2010 prescription drug event data should be submitted to CMS by that time and the volume of any 2010 transactions will have declined significantly.

The second purpose of this memorandum is to describe the requirements and timeframes for the implementation of changes associated with version 1.2 of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Financial Information Reporting (FIR) transaction standard. The new version of the FIR transaction includes the F4 (FIR Suspense) and F5 (FIR Release) transactions as well as the addition of new fields for Contract and Plan Benefit Package (PBP) numbers. However, since the Transaction Facilitator receives only 1 or 2 requests for suspension per year, we discussed delaying implementation of the F4 and F5 transactions with the NCPDP Work Group 1 FIR Task Group. We agreed we will proceed to implement the Contract/PBP fields and will postpone implementation of the new FIR transactions until a later date.

Each Part D sponsor must ensure that their FIR processor is certified by the Transaction Facilitator to process FIR transactions including the Contract/PBP fields by the implementation date of July 1, 2012. The Transaction Facilitator will begin piloting the new version of the FIR transactions in September; the certification test cases are currently available on the MedifacD

website at https://medifacd.relayhealth.com/Payers/FIR_Testing.html under the heading “Certification Test Cases Description - Version 1.2.” Additional guidance regarding the testing and certification process will be posted to the website later this month. During the certification period, the Facilitator will support both versions of the FIR and will maintain a BIN/PCN table to identify the processors that are certified to accept version 1.2 transactions.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Deborah Larwood at 410-786-9500 or Deborah.Larwood@cms.hhs.gov.