

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



## **CENTER FOR MEDICARE**

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**DATE:** February 3, 2012

**TO:** Medicare Advantage and §1876 Cost Quality Contacts and Compliance Officers

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

**SUBJECT:** UPDATED Patient-level HEDIS information available

Medicare Advantage (MA) and §1876 Cost contracts that are required to report HEDIS 2012 summary-level data for the 2011 measurement year (MY) must also provide the patient-level data used to calculate the summary-level scores for each contract. Summary and patient-level data are due concurrently, on June 15, 2012. Submission of the patient-level HEDIS data is not required for the SNP-specific measures.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently placed updated versions of the following documents at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MCRAAdvPartDENrolData/> under the downloads section.

- 2012 Patient-level file specifications, File 1 of 2 (2011 Measurement Year) (dated January 4, 2012)
- 2012 Patient-level file specifications, File 2 of 2 (2011 Measurement Year) (dated January 4, 2012)
- 2012 Patient-level data submission instructions (2011 Measurement Year) (dated January 9, 2012)

CMS is also posting the following document to assist you in the creation of your 2012 patient-level file.

- Crosswalk document showing changes from 2011 to 2012 patient-level file specifications

Please use the 2012 documents for the creation of the MY 2011 patient-level files. Please access these updated versions for use for creating and submitting your patient-level submission. Be sure to deliver the updated versions of these documents to your NCQA-Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor and any third-party vendor submitting data on your behalf.

Patient-Level HEDIS submission information

You will be submitting your MY 2011 Patient-level HEDIS data using the secure CMS Enterprise FTP client system that you currently use to submit other beneficiary specific information to CMS. You will use your existing GENTRAN or Connect:Direct account to upload your patient-level data files using the file naming conventions that are specified in the 2012 patient-level submission instructions. If you utilize the services of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor to submit information to GENTRAN or Connect:Direct, please notify them that you are required to submit HEDIS patient-level data so that, if you desire, they can submit the file you create.

In the event a data file does not pass validation, you should inform your vendor that they will also need to submit any corrected data files as necessary.

CMS' contractor Edaptive Systems will access your patient-level data through the same secure system, and will perform validations of your data. For those who have been designated as a "Point of Contact" (POC) a password will be issued to allow you to view the status of your data file(s) via the HEDIS Patient-Level Web Portal at <https://mapld.edaptivesys.com>. Edaptive Systems is performing this activity under contract to CMS, and is accountable for adhering to Federal laws and regulations regarding security and confidentiality of personally identifiable information and protected health information.

For questions about the 2012 patient-level file specifications and submission process, please contact [MA\\_patient\\_data@edaptivesys.com](mailto:MA_patient_data@edaptivesys.com). For questions about HEDIS summary-level data submission, please contact your HEDIS account manager at NCQA.

***Please note the following:***

- As has always been the case, it is important that your patient-level data match your summary –level data when aggregated at the contract level.
- For 2012 covering MY 2011, two patient-level files are to be submitted. The Plan All-Cause Readmission measure is in a separate file.

CMS is currently seeking volunteers for testing the 2012 patient-level submission process and would welcome your participation. Beginning April 9, 2012 through May 4, 2012, plans or third-party vendors may submit test data files to CMS via Gentran or Connect:Direct. This testing period is being offered to plans that would like to verify their Gentran or Connect:Direct connection and to find programmer or logic errors prior to the official submission period. For more information about providing a test submission, please read the "Patient-Level Data Submission Overview" section of the Submission Instructions or contact [Ma\\_patient\\_data@edaptivesys.com](mailto:Ma_patient_data@edaptivesys.com). For questions about this memo, please contact Barbara Crawley at 410-786-6590 or [Barbara.Crawley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Barbara.Crawley@cms.hhs.gov).