

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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MLN Matters® Number: MM8858

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8858

Related CR Release Date: February 24, 2015

Effective Date: 30 Days From Issuance (See test dates)

Related CR Transmittal #: R1472OTN

Implementation Date: November 17 through 21, 2014, for the November Testing Week; March 2 through 6, 2015 for the March Testing Week; June 1 through 5, 2015, for the June Testing Week;

### International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) Testing - Acknowledgement Testing with Providers

**Note:** This article was revised on May 26, 2015, to add a reference to MLN Matters® Article [SE1501](#) that advises physicians, providers, suppliers, clearinghouses, and billing agencies who participate in acknowledgement testing and who are selected to participate in Medicare ICD-10 end-to-end testing to review the questions and answers in this special edition article before preparing claims for ICD-10 acknowledgement testing and end-to-end testing to gain an understanding of the guidelines and requirements for successful testing. All other information remains unchanged.

#### Disclaimer

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## Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health & Hospice (HH&H) MACs and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

## Provider Action Needed

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Change Request (CR) 8858 instructs MACs to promote three specific acknowledgement testing weeks with providers, and provide data and statistics to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to demonstrate readiness for the International Classification for Disease 10<sup>th</sup> Edition Clinical Modification (ICD-10) transition. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these ICD-10 testing opportunities.

## Background

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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is in the process of implementing ICD-10. All covered entities must be fully compliant on October 1, 2015.

CR8858 instructs all MACs and the DME MAC Common Electronic Data Interchange (CEDI) contractor to promote ICD-10 Acknowledgement Testing with trading partners during three separate testing weeks, and to collect data about the testing. These testing weeks will be:

- November 17 – 21, 2014
- March 2 – 6, 2015
- June 1 – 5, 2015

The concept of trading partner testing was originally designed to validate the trading partners' ability to meet technical compliance and performance processing standards during the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) 5010 implementation. While submitters may acknowledgement test ICD-10 claims at any time through implementation, the ICD-10 testing weeks have been created to generate awareness and interest, and to instill confidence in the provider community that CMS and the MACs are ready and prepared for the ICD-10 implementation.

These testing weeks will allow trading partner's access to MACs and CEDI for testing with real-time help desk support. The event will be conducted virtually and will be posted on the CMS website, the CEDI website and each MAC's website.

## Key Points of the Testing Process for CR8858

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- Test claims with ICD-10 codes must be submitted with current dates of service since testing does not support future dates of service.

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- Claims will be subject to existing NPI validation edits.
- MACs and CEDI will be staffed to handle increased call volume during this week.
- Test claims will receive the 277CA or 999 acknowledgement as appropriate, to confirm that the claim was accepted or rejected by Medicare.
- Test claims will be subject to all existing EDI front-end edits, including Submitter authentication and NPI validation.
- Testing will not confirm claim payment or produce a remittance advice.
- MACs and CEDI will be appropriately staffed to handle increased call volume on their Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) help desk numbers, especially during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local MAC time, during this week.
- Your MAC will announce and promote these testing weeks via their listserv messages and their website.

### Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR8858 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1472OTN.pdf> on the CMS website.

The EDI help desk numbers for institutional claim submitters are available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/downloads/EDIHelpinePartA.pdf> on the CMS website and the numbers for professional claims submitters are available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/downloads/EDIHelpinePartB.pdf> on the CMS website.

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