

March 18, 2015

Medicare's Testing Plan for ICD-10 Success

Our Approach

CMS is taking a comprehensive four-pronged approach to preparedness and testing to ensure that CMS, as well as the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) provider community, is ready:

- CMS internal testing of its claims processing systems
- Beta testing tools available from CMS
- Acknowledgement testing
- End-to-end testing

Testing is Key to Success

- CMS completed three successful acknowledgement testing weeks with submitters in March 2014, November 2014, and March 2015
- CMS recently completed the first of three end-to-end testing weeks in January 2015

Acknowledgement Testing

- Allows testers to submit claims with ICD-10 codes to the Medicare FFS claims systems and receive electronic acknowledgements confirming that their claims were accepted
- This testing can be performed at any time or during targeted testing weeks
- All electronic submitters are eligible to participate, and no registration is required

March '14 Acknowledgement Testing Success

- Testers submitted more than 127,000 claims with ICD-10 codes and received electronic acknowledgements confirming that their claims were accepted
- Approximately 2,600 participating providers, suppliers, billing companies, and clearinghouses participated in the testing week, representing about five percent of all submitters
- Testing did not identify any issues with the Medicare FFS claims systems

Nov '14 Acknowledgement Testing Success

- During the November testing week, testers submitted almost 13,700 claims
- More than 500 providers, suppliers, billing companies, and clearinghouses participated in the testing week
- Testing did not identify any issues with the Medicare FFS claims systems

March '15 Acknowledgement Testing Success

- Our third acknowledgement testing week was held March 2 through 6, 2015

Future Acknowledgement Testing

- Providers, suppliers, billing companies, and clearinghouses are welcome to submit acknowledgement test claims anytime up to the October 1, 2015 implementation date.
- In addition, special acknowledgement testing weeks give submitters access to real-time help desk support and allows CMS to analyze testing data. Registration is not required. Mark your calendar:
 - June 1 through 5, 2015

End-to-End Testing

- End-to-end testing allows providers to submit ICD-10 test claims that will be fully processed and produce a Remittance Advice (RA)
- This is the first time this type of testing has been available to providers

End-to-End Testing

- Approximately 850 providers will have the opportunity to participate during each testing week, for a total of 2,550 testers
- The goals of this testing are to demonstrate that:
 - Providers and submitters are able to successfully submit claims containing ICD-10 codes to the Medicare FFS claims systems
 - CMS software changes made to support ICD-10 result in appropriately adjudicated claims
 - Accurate RAs are produced

End-to-End Testing

- Registration is required for end-to-end testing, as a limited number of volunteers may be chosen
- 50 volunteers will be chosen by each Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) to participate in each testing week
 - Volunteers chosen will be allowed to submit 50 test claims during the testing week
 - Volunteers will be chosen to provide a representative sample of submitters
 - Once selected, volunteers will be able to submit 50 additional claims in subsequent testing weeks without re-registering

January 2015 End-to-End Testing

- The first end-to-end testing week was conducted **January 26-February 3, 2015**.
- Approximately 660 providers and billing companies submitted nearly 15,000 test claims.
- Only 3% of test claims were rejected for invalid submission of ICD-10 diagnosis or procedure code.
- One ICD-10 system problem was found related to home health claims, which will be corrected before the next week of testing

Future End to End Testing

- Week 2 of end-to-end testing will be April 27-May 1, 2015
 - Testers for April have already been selected and are preparing to test
- Week 3 of end-to-end testing will be July 20-24, 2015
 - Registration on the MAC and Common Electronic Data Interchange (CEDI) websites will be open through April 17, 2015

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