

Updated Enforcement and Testing Tool for Administrative Simplification

Fact Sheet

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services takes seriously its role overseeing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) covered entities' compliance with nationally-adopted transactions, code sets, unique identifiers and operating rules. Under federal law, the Secretary for Health and Human Services establishes these standards, which reduce administrative burden and improve efficiency among HIPAA covered entities like health care providers, health plans and health care claims clearing houses. These standards are also sometimes referred to as the "non-privacy/security" provisions of HIPAA; CMS has been designated by the Secretary of Health and Human services to adopt and enforce them. A key part of this enforcement is ensuring the public has an opportunity to submit complaints related to covered entities compliance with adopted standards and operating rules.

The Administrative Simplification Enforcement and Testing Tool (ASETT¹) is a recently updated web-based application that enables individuals or organizations to file complaint against a Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) covered entity (which includes health care providers, health plans, and clearinghouses) for alleged non-compliance with the HIPAA adopted transactions and code sets, unique identifiers and operating rules (complaints about alleged non-compliance with HIPAA's privacy/security provisions should be directed to HHS's Office for Civil Rights). [ASETT](#) is an enhanced version of, and replaces, the current Administrative Simplification Enforcement Tool (ASET).

New Features and Enhancements

The ASETT system has been recently updated and it now allows covered entities, such as health care plans, to test HIPAA transaction files to determine whether they are in compliance with transaction standards. The system was also updated with a new user interface to make it easier for users to file and track their complaints. Together, these changes will make the system safer, easier to use, and more useful for covered entities working towards compliance.

- Enhanced Security: Ensuring that user information is secure is critical to operating the ASETT system. ASETT now builds on the foundation of the legacy system and is now fully integrated with CMS Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) and the CMS Enterprise Portal. The EIDM provides users an additional level of security for filing complaints and attaching supporting documentation and transactions, with Multi-Factor Authentication and Remote

¹ This system was previously called "ASET." An additional "T" was added to the name due to the new "testing" functionality.

Identity Proofing.

- **Better Tools:** Complainants may now check complaint status at any point in the complaint process, upload supporting documents and notes, and utilize an upgraded transaction testing tool. The transaction testing tool has been upgraded with all the latest transactions standards, including ICD-10. Users may use the tool as often as needed to check their own files, and/or submit files to support their complaints.
- **Effective Complaint Processing:** With ASETT's new enhancements, the enforcement team will be able to reduce wait periods that may occur during the complaint investigation process. Updated complaint status and tracking tools will also allow the enforcement team to keep entities informed of the complaint status throughout the process, and capture all necessary information relevant to the complaint resolution.
- Updated ASETT will enable users to learn more about the complaint process with up-to-date help guides, frequently asked questions, and supporting information.

Who Can Use ASETT

Users can file a complaint against a covered entity for alleged non-compliance with HIPAA adopted transactions and code sets, unique identifiers, and operating rules, as well as to test transactions to identify any potential non-compliance with the adopted standards.

While ASETT is available to the public, CMS will treat the information provided as confidential and will not disclose the information outside of complaint resolution activities to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

User Account Information

Prior to entering ASETT, each user must complete the one-time [EIDM](#) registration process to gain access to the system. Additionally, the user must request the Registrant role to gain the ability to file complaints and test transactions in ASETT. Users do not need to file a complaint in order to test a transaction.

Resources and Support

The ASETT website provides additional information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), a video on the enforcement process, key terms, and links to the User Manual and Quick Start Guide.

ASET support staff (CMS Contractor) can be reached by sending an e-mail to asett@actionet.com or by calling (703) 951-6810. Hours of Operation are 8am to 5pm EST.