

**Meeting Name: R2016Q300 MAC Kickoff Call**

Heading	Meeting Data	Heading	Meeting Data
<b>Date:</b>	January 14, 2016	<b>Facilitator:</b>	Brad Beatty
<b>Time:</b>	1:00-2:00 PM ET	<b>Scribe:</b>	Rashida Kasmani
<b>Duration:</b>	1 hour	<b>Location:</b>	Teleconference

Teleconference #855-538-0646 Access #322038

**Invitees/Attendance**

Company	Present? (Y/N)
CMS	Y
MEIC	Y
BESST	Y
Palmetto GBA	Y
Noridian	Y
NGS	Y
Novitas	Y
WPS	Y
First Coast	Y
CGS	N
NHIC	Y
Cahaba GBA	Y

**Agenda**

Time Slot	Subject	Presenter
1:00 PM	Roll Call	Brad Beatty
1:05 PM	Opening Remarks from CMS	CMS HETS Business Owner
1:10 PM	Review R2016Q300 Release Summary	Brad Beatty
1:30 PM	Test Connectivity MAC testing window (testing dates & hours) Bi-weekly status calls during release window Validation System Down Time communication How to report problems	Brad Beatty
1:40 PM	Testing Data Availability	Brad Beatty
1:45 PM	Questions	All

**Discussion:**

The conference bridge was opened at 12:55 PM ET. Facilitator Brad Beatty received permission from CMS to begin taking roll at 1:03 PM ET. CMS, MEIC, and BESST representatives were present on the call. All MACs with the exception of CGS also had representation on the call.

The HETS 270/271 Business Owners introduced themselves to the MACs on the call. He noted that this was a Kickoff Call for the next HETS 270/271 Release and User Acceptance Testing (UAT). The Business Owner advised this release is very critical for CMS and all the HETS users as it involves updating the HETS hardware and software. Most of the functionality will remain the same and Brad will review the details where changes apply. CMS expects all the MACs to actively participate in the UAT testing and will help move this release in to the Production environment. Brad advised the MACs that during the UAT period, CMS will review weekly reports detailing which MACs are testing (and transaction reporting including how many transactions were sent, what kind of responses were received, etc.). CMS will be monitoring this data on a weekly basis and hopes to see significant testing from all MAC submitters.

Brad reviewed the content in the R2016Q300 MAC Release Summary. The document is available online at: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/CMS-Information-Technology/HETSHelp/Downloads/R2016Q300HETS270271MACReleaseSummary.pdf>

Section 1 and Section 2 of the Release Summary were read verbatim. It's important for all MACs to carefully review these sections and understand what is included in this release. The R2016Q300 will include a controlled migration to a new HETS processing engine. This engine may result in a variety of minor changes to the way that HETS responds to eligibility requests.

It was noted that all MACs send to HETS via TCP/IP connectivity, so the note in Section 3.1 of the Release Summary applies to all MACs. Effective with this Production release, all MACs will need to send their HETS traffic to a new destination IP address. The MACs currently send their HETS Production traffic to the CMS Baltimore Data Center (BDC) but will now need to send to a new address in the BDC. This will likely require each MAC to coordinate with their network/firewall teams. MACs will receive the new HETS Production destination IP address at least 30 days prior to the release Production date. There will be a specific migration schedule for the MACs detailing when they will move to the new Production environment – more details will be provided at a later date.

Section 3.2 of the Release Summary describes specific changes in the way that HETS will respond after this release when the new processing engine is in place. The majority of changes involve the way that HETS will respond in error situations.

Table 1 of the Release Summary includes only the 271 AAA03 errors that are new or have changed. It was also noted that HETS will no longer return a 271 AAA03 error of "56" at all. It was noted that an updated HETS 270/271 Companion Guide will be available soon – that document will include an exhaustive list of all 271 AAA03 errors that can be returned. In the interim, Table 1 outlines new or changed errors. 271 AAA03 error "T4" is new – all of the errors listed in Table 1 are changes to the existing logic or the field description.

Brad asked the MACs to carefully review the contents of Table 1 and be conscious of how their systems are currently handling these errors. For example, if a MAC's system currently receives the 271 AAA03 of "56", the MAC needs to be aware that error will no longer be returned. The MACs need to be prepared to handle different error responses from HETS.

Section 3.2.2 was reviewed in detail. With the change in the processing engine, the MACs will see a variety of acknowledgment messages or error situations being handled differently. Section 3.2.2 is a list of known differences in the way that the new HETS processing engine will process transactions – but there may be additional differences identified in UAT.

- HETS currently returns a 999 if the word “CMS” is not sent in the 270 GS03 element. Effective with this release, instead of returning a 999 in this situation, a TA1 with a TA105 response of “024” will be returned. Since the MACs are already fully implemented HETS submitters, it’s possible that the MACs will not encounter this issue but it’s important to be aware of the change.
- HETS currently returns a TA105 of “017” when the Interchange Control Version Number is not current. Effective with this release, HETS will return a TA105 response of “003” instead.
- HETS currently returns a 271 AAA03 of “56” when the Date of Service contains a range of dates and the “from date” is greater than the “to date.” Effective with this release, HETS will return a 999 response in this situation. HETS will no longer return a 271 AAA03 of “56” in any situation.
- Effective with this release, HETS will return a 999 whenever a Medicare Beneficiary Middle Initial or Middle Name is sent in the 270 2100C NM105. HETS will also return a 999 whenever a Gender Code is sent in the 270 2100C DMG03. Brad highlighted this point – this is new logic. MACs need to carefully review their logic in regards to what information they send on the 270 request. MACs should not submit Middle Initial, Middle Name or Gender Code in the 270 request. HETS Business Owners reinforced this instruction later in the call.

Section 3.2.5 was reviewed. The new HETS processing engine will return a different set of Proprietary Errors. Tables 2 and 3 have been completely updated and are all-inclusive, listing all necessary information about Proprietary Error message format and content. MACs need to review both tables and ensure that they understand the format and content of all Proprietary Error messages that will be returned effective with this release.

The MACs were advised that there is another version of the R2016Q300 Release Summary that will be distributed to non-MAC Submitters (and posted on the HETSHelp website). The MACs were advised that the other version of the Release Summary will include additional details that are not pertinent to MAC Submitters.

UAT Connectivity – the new Validation region has different destination IP addresses. These addresses were distributed on the MAC Kickoff Call. If you need the destination IP addresses again, please contact MCARE via phone at 866-324-7315. There are two destination IP addresses; they can be used interchangeably in Validation.

MACs may need to implement firewall/network changes on their side to connect to these new destination IP addresses. Please begin that work ASAP. Prior to beginning the UAT period, CMS will request that each MAC test connectivity to the new Validation region. Action item 001 (see table below) was opened. Upon notice via MCARE, CMS will ask each MAC to test their connectivity to the new Validation region January 29 – February 11, 2016. After completing this test, the MAC should email MCARE to advise the results of this test.

CMS also requested that each MAC send an email to MCARE with a list of all Submitter IDs that the MAC will be using in the new Validation region. CMS requested that the MACs complete this action by Friday, January 15, 2016. Action item 002 was opened for this task. MACs can utilize a single HETS 270/271 Submitter ID in the Validation region if they would like (unlike Production where CMS expects the MACs to utilize different Submitter IDs for each project/jurisdiction/channel).

UAT Testing Dates – the UAT period is tentatively scheduled to begin on or around February 12, 2016. The period is expected to run until approximately April 29, 2016. There will be an additional MAC testing call held before the testing period begins, and MACs will be given specific instruction when it is time to begin testing in the new Validation region. This call is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016 – a specific date/time will be distributed to the MACs soon. Additionally, CMS will hold bi-weekly testing status meetings with the MACs during the UAT period February – April, 2016. These meetings will be an opportunity for the contractors to notify the MACs of known issues that have been identified during testing.

The meetings are also an opportunity for the MACs to provide status of their own testing efforts, share results, ask questions, etc.

MCARE recommends that MACs complete their UAT during the hours of 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET, Monday – Friday. MCARE will notify the MACs of any scheduled outages in the HETS Validation region as well as advise of any unscheduled outages that occur during the UAT period.

MCARE is the point of contact for any issues or questions about the UAT period. MACs should contact MCARE via phone or email to report any issues. Please identify the question or issue as being Validation UAT related. MCARE will open a ticket for each inquiry and escalate issues as necessary.

Based on the changes contained within the R2016Q300 release, MCARE is not going to release specific test Beneficiary data to the MACs. If a MAC needs a specific type of beneficiary to complete UAT testing, then please contact MCARE and provide a list of specific beneficiary type(s) needed. CMS recommends that the MACs submit a wide variety of transactions in the Validation region – almost similar to a ‘day in the life’ of your current HETS usage – to ensure that you understand all of the different responses that will be returned by the new processing engine. MACs should not perform any load testing in HETS Validation (or Production) without explicit CMS permission.

#### **Questions & Answers:**

- Mark at FCSO asked if one of the Validation destination IPs should be given preference over the other (similarly to how the HETS Production environment works). The answer was given that in the Validation region, these destination IPs can be used interchangeably.
- Jessica from Palmetto GBA asked if there will be a notification email distributed when the new HETS 270/271 R2016Q300 Companion Guide is available. The answer was given that yes, all MACs will be notified when the amended Companion Guide is available.
- Susan from Novitas asked about the Production migration date currently scheduled for the 3rd quarter. The HETS Business Owner replied that a controlled migration is scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2016. If any MACs had specific concerns about this timeline due to other business initiatives, they are welcome to contact the Business Owner to discuss.

With no further questions, the call was closed at 1:45 PM ET.

**Open Action Items**

Number	Description	Assignee	Due Date
001	MACs will be asked to verify their connectivity to the new HETS Validation region. After completing the test, each MAC should email <a href="mailto:mcare@cms.hhs.gov">mcare@cms.hhs.gov</a> to advise the results of their effort.	MACs	Between 1/29/16 – 2/11/16. MCARE will send the MACs an email when it is time to test this connectivity.
002	MACs were asked to email MCARE with a list of all Submitter IDs that the MACs intend to use in the HETS Validation environment.	MACs	1/15/16

**Closed Action Items**

Number	Description	Assignee	Completion Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A