

# HIPAA DDE Requirements

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# What is DDE?

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- A process, using dumb terminals or computer browser screens, where the data is directly keyed by a health care provider into a health plan's computer (from preamble to final transactions rule).
- Note that this is "data element by data element", not transaction by transaction.

# Web vs DDE

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- An Internet application may be DDE, it may not be.
  - If application provides a screen which allow the direct entry of data into the health plan's system, it is DDE.
  - If the application takes the data and sends it as a transaction to the health plan, it is not DDE.

# Regulation Requirements

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- 162.923(b)
  - Providers electing to use DDE must use applicable data content and data condition requirements, not the format requirements
- 162.925(a)(4)
  - Health plan cannot offer an incentive to use DDE.

# What does all this mean?

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- Health plans must support the standard transactions (via EDI)
- Health plans can give providers an option to use DDE, but are not obligated to do so.
- No incentives (e.g. additional reimbursement, quicker payment) for using DDE

# What does this mean?

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- Data content must be the same
  - Data elements (except those for formatting or control) must be there
  - Must use the same conditions (required, situational)
  - Must use same code sets
  - Must label data elements the same (but can add additional explanation)

# What does this mean?

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- Health plans can use a business associate to offer a DDE option.

# “Customizing DDE”

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- Since DDE is an option, health plans can offer it in limited circumstances
  - Only for certain providers
  - Only for certain situations and not for others (e.g. no COB situations)
- Transaction can reflect required/situational data elements for those situations.

# “Customizing DDE”

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- DDE screens can display data health plan already has
- Size of fields
  - Can be anywhere from minimum to maximum
- Number of repetitions
  - Can be anywhere from minimum to maximum

# Customizing DDE

## What is NOT Allowed

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- Cannot require additional data to be entered complete the transactions
- Cannot provide additional data on a response transaction (but can offer option on additional screens)
- Cannot force the use of DDE instead of the standard EDI transaction

# Conclusions

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- Plans can provide DDE systems as an option to provider
- DDE systems must be made HIPAA data content compliant
- DDE systems can be customized
- But no incentives to use DDE
- Regular EDI standard must be offered.