



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation (esMD) Release Summary for October 2026 (AR2026.10.0) Release

Version 1.2

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Document Change History

Version Number	Date	Author/Owner	Description of Change
1.0	05/20/2026	Sridevi Muthili	Initial version of document for AR2026.10.0
1.1	08/10/2026	Sridevi Muthili	AR2026.10.0 version 1.1 contains the following updates: Updated Section(s) - Section 2 – Added TDL-15516 info. Updated Table(s) - Table 1 – Updated with new dates for Web-based 278 CG v2.0 and removed dates for Web-based 275 Additional Supporting CG Doc v2.0 - Table 2 – Updated with TDL information. - Table 3 – Updated with TDL information.
1.2	08/19/2026	Sridevi Muthili	AR2026.10.0 version 1.2 contains the following updates: Updated Section(s) - Section 2 – Corrected TDL #15516 to #260630. Updated Table(s) - Table 2 and 3 - Corrected TDL #15516 to #260630.

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1. Overview

The intent of this Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation (esMD) Release Summary Document is to communicate information on the release timeline and content to the Health Information Handlers (HIH) and Review Contractors (RC) early in the release development cycle for October 5, 2026, esMD Release (AR2026.10.0).

Section 2 Release Approach: Provides a high-level perspective of the esMD system functionality being developed and implemented in Production in AR2026.10.0.

Section 3 Release Schedule Dates: Provides release schedule details, major events, and dates that will occur during the release to ensure the HIHs, RCs, and Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) are prepared to participate in the release. This section also contains a future release notice regarding preparations that may be required.

Section 4 HIH and RC High-Level Impacts for AR2026.10.0: Summarizes the impact of changes in this release to HIHs and RCs.

Section 5 MAC and WMP High-Level Impacts for AR2026.10.0: Summarizes the impact of changes in this release to the WISer Model Participants (WMPs).

2. Release Approach

The October 2026 esMD Release AR2026.10.0 consists of business and system changes related to the following change requests (CRs) and Technical Direction Letter (TDL):

- BUS_CHG-01: Continue Onboarding HIHs to FHIR for XDR Approach
- BUS_CHG-02: Enhance ASC B004 to Support Multiple Procedure Codes for Blepharoplasty, Panniculectomy, Rhinoplasty, and Vein Ablation Services
- BUS_CHG-03: Enhance the current Process Metadata XML with a New Metadata Field to Identify Number of Pages Attached to a PDF.
- BUS_CHG-04: Enhance esMD ADR processing by introducing a new CTC- 1.19 for WISeR ADR identification and Non-PA Responses.
- BUS_CHG-05: Enhance esMD - WISeR Transaction Processing, Data Persistence, Reporting, and Defect Remediation.
- SYS_CHG-06: esMD REST API Auth Token Re-use Mechanism for WMPs, RCs, and HIHs.
- TDL-260630: CMS Requests all Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) Participants to Actively Participate in Medicare Integrated Systems Testing (MIST) and User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Activities for the October 2026 Release.

3. Release Schedule Dates

This section lists all release schedule dates, testing timelines, and release activities performed by internal and external teams. Refer to Table 1: Release Schedule Dates for AR2026.10.0.

Table 1: Release Schedule Dates for AR2026.10.0

Event	Date
1. Release Summary Document for the AR2026.10.0 release v1.0 (Delivered)	06/18/2026
2. Release Summary Document for the AR2026.10.0 release v1.1	08/19/2026
3. Release Summary Document for the AR2026.10.0 release v1.2	08/19/2026
4. HIH Implementation Guide (Delivered)	07/17/2026
5. Preliminary RC Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document (Delivered)	07/20/2026
6. Preliminary HIH Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document (Delivered)	07/21/2026
7. WISeR Technical Release Change (TRC) document for WISeR Participants and MACs (Delivered)	07/22/2026
8. RC Implementation Guide for Java (Delivered)	07/23/2026
9. RC Implementation Guide for NET (Delivered)	07/23/2026
10. HIH Technical Calls	Call 1 - 07/23/2026 Call 2 - 08/20/2026
11. RC Technical Calls	Call 1 - 07/22/2026 Call 2 - 08/18/2026
12. WISeR Technical Call with Model Participants, RCs	Call 1 – 07/28/2026
13. X12 278 Web-Based Companion Guide v2.0	09/11/2026
14. Final HIH Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document (Delivered)	08/13/2026
15. Final RC Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document	08/17/2026
16. Final WISeR – MAC Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document	08/18/2026
17. X12 275 Unsolicited PWK Web-Based Companion Guide v1.0	09/11/2026
18. Review X12 278 Web-Based Companion Guide	09/08/2026
19. Review X12 275 Unsolicited PWK Web-Based Companion Guide	09/08/2026
20. Deliver RC Client Java and .Net Software	07/28/2026
21. Deliver Java and .Net Notification Utility	07/28/2026
22. Deliver WISeR Utility	07/28/2026
23. Review All Test Data and Test Scenarios Received from the RCs	08/12/2026
24. Deliver Test Data Template (Delivered)	08/13/2026
25. MIST Testing for ASC	08/03/2026 – 08/21/2026
26. UAT Kick-Off	08/26/2026
27. UAT Timelines	08/31/2026 - 09/25/2026
28. Code freeze on UAT	09/28/2026
29. October 2026 Release Go Live	10/05/2026

4. HIH and RC High-Level Impacts for AR2026.10.0

This section lists the impact to the HIHs and RCs that result from the changes implemented in release AR2026.10.0. Updates to this Release are summarized in Table 2: esMD AR2026.10.0 Release HIH/RC High-level Impact Summary.

Table 2: esMD AR2026.10.0 Release HIH/RC High-level Impact Summary

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
BUS_CHG-01	Continue Onboarding HIHs to FHIR for XDR Approach	Regression Testing	All RCs are requested to perform Regression Testing for all LOBs they support in the esMD Production environment. RCs must perform testing in the UAT environment and send all responses for the received requests from HIHs along with the associated Transaction ID. RCs must report any issues identified during Regression Testing to esMD Team.	All HIHs are requested to participate in UAT and perform Regression Testing for all LOBs they support in the esMD Production environment using the FHIR approach for supported LOBs. HIHs must report any issues identified during Regression Testing to esMD Team.
TDL-260630 / BUS_CHG02	Enhance ASC B004 Request to Support Multiple Procedure Codes for Blepharoplasty, Panniculectomy, Rhinoplasty, and Vein Ablation Services B004.	Implementation / Testing	As part of this release, the esMD system will process the X12N 278 request with one or more Procedure Codes received for the ASC PA Program. The RCs are requested to participate in the UAT Testing and submit couple of Reject, Decision Response, and Admin Errors for the received ASC 278 Request for one or more procedure code's submitted for B004. Note: No changes to the current batch file and responses sent to the contractors or received from the contractors.	As part of this release, the esMD system will enhance the current X12 278 ASC Program for the HIHs to allow one or more Procedure Codes in the X12 278 request for ASC B004. - The current layout of the 278 requests will remain the same. - No changes to all the responses processed back to the HIH for the sent 278 request. The HIH are requested to participate in the UAT testing to ensure the end-to-end workflow is working as expected when sending the B004 request with one or more procedure codes.

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
TDL-260630 / BUS_CHG03	Enhance the current Process Metadata XML with a new metadata field to identify number of pages attached to a PDF	Implementation / Testing	As part of this release the esMD system shall enhance the RC Process Metadata XML with an optional metadata element 'totalNumberOfPages' at the Documentation level to include the number of pages attached to a PDF sent by the HIHs. The RCs are requested to participate in the UAT testing and validate if the new metadata is present in the XML file along with a value present if applicable when received from the esMD system.	As part of this enhancement there is no impact to the current layouts that are sent by HIH for all the applicable LOBs.
TDL-260630 / BUS_CHG04	Enhance esMD ADR processing by introducing a new CTC- 1.19 for WISer ADR identification and Non-PA Responses	Implementation / Testing	As part of this release RC will receive the WISer ADR Responses with CTC 1.19 from the HIH. The esMD system will process it to the MACs based on the recipient OID received from the HIH.	As part of this release the HIHs will send the WISer ADR Response with new CTC 1.19 for the ADR Response to WISer/RC. The HIHs are requested to participate in the UAT to perform some regression testing.
TDL-260630 / SYS_CHG06	esMD REST API Auth Token Re-use Mechanism for WMPs, RCs, and HIHs.	Implementation / Testing	As part of this release, the esMD authentication service will continue to return an access token after successful authentication with a valid period of 3,600 seconds (60 minutes). - The RCs are requested to participate during the UAT period to test the Auth Token for all supported transaction types. - The RCs are requested to store the access token and its expiration time. - The RCs are requested to reuse the same valid access token for all	As part of this release, the esMD authentication service will continue to return an access token after successful authentication with a valid period of 1,800 seconds (30 minutes). - The HIHs are requested to participate during the UAT period to test the Auth Token for all supported transaction types. - The HIHs are requested to store the access token and its expiration time.

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
			subsequent esMD REST API transactions until the token expires. The RCs can only request a new access token only after the current token has expired or becomes invalid. Note: Refer to the RC TRC or Auth Token document for additional details.	- The HIHs are requested to reuse the same valid access token for all subsequent esMD REST API transactions until the token expires. - The HIHs can only request a new access token only after the current token has expired or becomes invalid.

5. MAC and WMP High-Level Impacts for AR2026.10.0

This section lists the impact to the participating MACs and WMPs that result from the changes implemented in release AR2026.10.0. as part of WISeR Implementation are summarized in Table 3: esMD AR2026.10.0 Release MAC/WMP High-level Impact Summary.

Table 3: esMD AR2026.10.0 Release MAC/WMP High-level Impact Summary

CR	Title	Sub-Type	MAC Impact	WMP Impact
TDL-260630 / BUS_CHG-04	Enhance current esMD WISeR code by introducing a new CTC-1.19 for WISeR ADR identification and Non-PA Responses	Implementation / Testing	Refer to BUS_CHG-04 in Table 2: esMD AR2026.10.0 Release HIH/RC High-level Impact Summary for RC changes.	As part of this release esMD system shall begin accepting ADR responses from HIHs with CTC 1.19 and deliver them to WISeR participants. WISeR participants will receive a new Transaction Type with a value “ADR_RESPONSE_HIH_WISER” in the Transaction Process Metadata along with an optional “ResponseTypeCategory” element. esMD will not validate the optional field and will route ADR responses to WMPs based on the recipient OID received from the HIH. The WISeR participants are requested to perform testing to ensure the end to end process is working as expected for the ADR Response received from the HIH for the sent PA.
BUS_CHG05	Enhance esMD - WISeR Transaction Processing, Data Persistence, Reporting, and Defect Remediation	Regression Testing	As part of this release, there is no change to the existing Transaction Types sent or received by MACs. The MACs are requested to continue with regression testing during the UAT period for all the Transaction Types implemented as part of January and April Releases.	As part of this release, there is no change to the existing Transaction Types sent or received by WMPs. The WMPs are requested to continue with regression testing during the UAT period for all the Transaction Types implemented as part of January and April Releases.

CR	Title	Sub-Type	MAC Impact	WMP Impact
TDL-260630 / SYS_CHG06	esMD REST API Auth Token Re-use Mechanism for WMPs, RCs, and HIHs	Implementation / Testing	As part of this release, the esMD authentication service will continue to return an access token after successful authentication with a valid period of 3,600 seconds (60 minutes). - The MACs are requested to participate during the UAT period to test the Auth Token for all supported WISeR transaction types. - The MACs are requested to store the access token and its expiration time. - The MACs are requested to reuse the same valid access token for all subsequent esMD REST API transactions until the token expires. - The MACs can only request a new access token only after the current token has expired or becomes invalid. Note: Refer to the MAC (WISeR) TRC or Auth Token document for additional details.	As part of this release, the esMD authentication service will continue to return an access token after successful authentication with a valid period of 1,800 seconds (30 minutes). - The WMPs are requested to participate during the UAT period to test the Auth Token for all supported WISeR transaction types. - The WMPs are requested to store the access token and its expiration time. - The WMPs are requested to reuse the same valid access token for all subsequent esMD REST API transactions until the token expires. - The WMPs can only request a new access token only after the current token has expired or becomes invalid. Note: Refer to the WISeR TRC or Auth Token document for additional details.

Appendix A: Acronyms

Table 4: Acronyms

Acronym	Literal Translation
ADR	Additional Documentation Request
API	Application Programming Interface
ASC	Ambulatory Surgical Center
Auth	Authorization
CHG	Change
CR	Change Request
CTC	Content Type Code
esMD	Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation
FHIR	Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources
HIH	Health Information Handler
ID	Identifier
LOB	Line of Business
MAC	Medicare Administrative Contractor
MIST	Medicare Integrated Systems Testing
OID	Organizational Identifier
PA	Prior Authorization
PDF	Portable Document Format
PROD	Production Environment
PWK	Paperwork
RC	Review Contractor
REST	Representational State Transfer
SSM	Shared System Maintainer
TRC	Technical Release Changes
UAT	User Acceptance Testing
WISeR	Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction
WMP	WISeR Model Participant
XDR	Cross-Enterprise Document Reliable Interchange
XML	Extensible Markup Language