



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Office of Information Technology Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System: HETS 270/271

HETS2026-4 Release Summary Document

Version 1.1

09/24/2026

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1. Introduction

This document informs Submitters of upcoming changes to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS) 270/271 application that will be implemented with the HETS2026-4 release.

2. Overview of Release

The HETS2026-4 release introduces potential changes to the HETS 270 request and HETS 271 response.

The following section documents planned HETS2026-4 changes.

3. Summary of the Impact on Trading Partners

3.1 Support Additional Colorectal Cancer Screening (COLO) Preventive HCPCS Code

HETS currently supports seven preventive Colorectal Cancer Screening (COLO) service HCPCS codes on the 270 request. Following this release, HETS will support one additional COLO preventive service HCPCS code: 0421U. This will bring the total number of supported COLO preventive service HCPCS codes to eight.

HETS returns the next eligible date for COLO HCPCS codes; it will handle the newly supported 0421U HCPCS code the same way. If the technical and professional components of a HCPCS code have different next eligible dates, then the 271 response returns a separate 2110C loop for each date.

Note that the scheduled date for the related CWF production deployment is currently January 4, 2027; HETS will not return the next eligible date for HCPCS 0421U on the 271 response until after the CWF data feed is updated on January 4, 2027.

All other base Medicare Preventive COLO HCPCS Codes Business Rules remain unchanged. Refer to Section 7.10.1 of the [HETS 270/271 Companion Guide](#) for additional information on current HETS COLO handling.

3.2 Clearinghouses Only - HETS Will Reject 270 Requests After Three Failed Email Delivery Attempts

Who this affects: This change applies only to HETS 270/271 Submitters known as "clearinghouses." This term covers software vendors, billing companies, EHR/PMS vendors, and traditional EDI clearinghouses that aggregate transactions from multiple entities and submit them to HETS under their own HETS Submitter ID.

Current process: Providers and Suppliers with a HETS EDI Enrollment record ([set up through their MAC](#)) receive a monthly email on the first, summarizing use of their attested NPI(s) in HETS for the prior month. If an email is undeliverable, the MCARE Help Desk contacts the

Clearinghouse(s) on file for that NPI. Clearinghouses must work with their customers to make sure the Provider or Supplier updates the email address through their MAC.

What's changing on December 1, 2026: If a HETS EDI Enrollment email fails delivery for three consecutive months (10/1, 11/1, and 12/1/2026), HETS will suspend that enrollment record. HETS will then reject all 270 requests submitted by the Clearinghouse for that NPI, returning a 271 2100B AAA03 = "97" error, until the email address is updated.

Action needed: Only the Provider or Supplier can update the email address, and they must do so through their MAC. Clearinghouses should prepare for this new rejection code and answer customer questions about why their transactions are failing.

Clearinghouses that don't support MCARE's efforts to prevent these suspensions, or that fail to assist customers with this error properly, may face additional penalties.

All other Submitter ID / NPI related validation logic for HETS Clearinghouse Submitters remain unchanged as specified in [Section 8.3, Table 14 of the HETS 270/271 Companion Guide](#).

3.3 HETS Handling of Grouped 271 2110C EB & DTP Segments

The HETS 271 response uses grouped 2110C EB and DTP segments for benefit-specific history. HETS can return the 20 most recent benefit-specific dates (DTPs) for beneficiaries with more than 20 benefit-specific dates. Submitters can change the 270's date of service (DOS) to receive additional benefit-date records.

3.4 Potential 2026 Changes to HETS-supported HCPCS Codes

Effectively with the HETS2026-4 release, HETS will prepare for industry-mandated HCPCS code changes, if necessary. Potential changes involve modifying HETS 270/271 logic for any supported HCPCS code that may be replaced or terminated effective January 1, 2027. All currently supported HCPCS codes will remain functional until at least December 31, 2026.

CMS will provide additional notification if HETS 270/271 Submitters are required to make any HCPCS-related changes. Refer to Sections 7.2 and/or 7.10 of the [HETS 270/271 Companion Guide](#) for additional information.

Appendix A. Revision History

Table 1 provides a record of changes made to this document.

Table 1: Record of Changes

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1.1	09/24/2026	Inserted new Section 3.3 to clarify HETS policy for handling of grouped 271 2110C EB and DTP segments.
1.0	09/23/2026	Initial release/base version.