



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation (esMD)

Interim Release Summary for the November 2025 (AR2025.11.0) Release

Version 1.0

8/18/2025

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Document Change History

Version Number	Date	Author/Owner	Description of Change
1.0	07/24/2025	Sridevi Muthili	Initial version of document for AR2025.11.0 Interim Release XDR Ambulatory Surgical Center Program

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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 (HIHs) and Review Contractors (RCs) early for the Interim release development cycle for the November 17, 2025 esMD Release (AR2025.11.0).

- Section 2: Release Approach - Provides a high-level perspective of the esMD system functionality being developed and implemented in Production for the AR2025.11.0 release.
- Section 3: Release Schedule Dates - Provides details of the major events and dates that will occur during the release to ensure HIHs and RCs 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 AR - Provides details of the impacts the change requests (CRs) being implemented in the AR2025.11.0 Release may have on the HIHs and RCs.

2. Release Approach

The November 17, 2025 esMD Interim Release AR2025.11.0 consists of analysis, application, and system changes related to the following:

eChimp CR 14193 - Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) Operational Requirements for the Prior Authorization (PA) Demonstration for Certain Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Services program.

1. HIHs and RCs are requested to use the Technical Release Change (TRC) documents and Implementation Guides (IGs) for additional information regarding the formats and the latest changes.
2. HIH and RCs must participate in the scheduled technical calls to receive information that will help them understand the enhancement to the XDR Ambulatory Surgical Center PA program, what to incorporate in the PA response, and what the expected outcomes are if any validations fail.

FHIR Assumptions:

1. The current Pickup, Reject, Decision & Admin Response processes shall be same and do not change for the ASCs PA Program (CTC 8.7).
2. All the existing requirements, validations, audit events, errors messages and associated transaction status related to the notifications remain the same.

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 AR2025.11.0.

Table 1: Release Schedule Dates for AR2025.11.0

Event	Date
1. Release Summary Document v1.0 for the AR2025.11.0 Release delivered to HIHs and RCs.	08/18/2025
2. Preliminary HIH Technical Release Changes (TRC) Documents for AR2025.11.0 implementation delivered to HIHs.	08/25/2025
3. Final HIH TRC documents for AR2025.11.0 delivered to HIHs.	09/22/2025
4. Preliminary RC Technical Release Changes (TRC) Documents for AR2025.11.0 implementation delivered to RCs.	08/25/2025
5. Final RC TRC documents for AR2025.11.0 delivered to RCs.	09/22/2025
6. Technical call conducted with HIHs to review the AR2025.11.0 release changes.	09/23/2025
7. Technical call conducted with RCs to review the AR2025.11.0 release changes.	09/24/2025
8. HIH Implementation Guide for AR2025.11.0 delivered to HIHs.	09/11/2025
9. Collect and review test data and testing scenarios.	10/01/2025 - 11/07/2025
10. UAT Kick-off Meeting	10/08/2025
11. UAT Timeline.	10/14/2025 - 11/07/2025
12. Code freeze on UAT.	11/14/2025
13. November 2025 Interim Release Go Live.	11/17/2025

4. HIH and RC High-Level Impacts for AR2025.11.0

This section lists the impact that will be implemented on the HIHs and RCs in AR2025.11.0. Updates to this Release Summary can be found in Table 2: esMD AR2025.11.0 Release Summary

Table 2: esMD AR2025.11.0 Release Summary

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC Impact	HIH Impact
eChimp CR 14193/CHG01.2 025.11	Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) Operational Requirements for the Prior Authorization (PA) Demonstration for Certain Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Services program.	Implementation	<p>As part of this change request, there is no functional change to the existing code for the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) XDR PA Program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The following MACs are requested to participate and support UAT testing by accepting the ASC transactions with CTC 8.7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCSO JN (Florida) NGS JK (New York) Palmetto JJ (Georgia and Tennessee) Noridian JE (California) Novitas JH (Texas) Noridian JF (Arizona) Novitas JL (Pennsylvania and Maryland) CGS J15 (Ohio) The RCs can send 'Decisions' for the same Transaction ID for a received ASC's XDR request from esMD. The RCs must test a couple of scenarios such as Affirmed and Non-Affirmed when sending the PA Review Response back to the HIH. 	<p>As part of this change request, the HIHs can start sending the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) requests in both XDR and FHIR formats with CTC 8.7.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The current layouts received and processed to HIHs such as Pickup, Reject, Decision, & Admin Response will remain the same and do not change. All existing PA Program requirements, validations, audit events, and error messages associated to the above notifications remain the same. The HIHs are requested to conduct end-to-end testing. This represents the minimal testing that is required. The HIH will continue to receive 'Decisions' for the XDR ASC request for the same Transaction ID from the participating MACs.

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC Impact	HIH Impact
			<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. There is no change to the existing file layout associated to the PA Reject/Decision Responses sent to esMD via SSMs.5. RCs are requested to perform end-to-end testing of the above programs. Testing is required to make sure the functionality is working as expected.6. The esMD Technical Team will provide support to review the test scenarios, identify any gaps, and provide suggestions.7. The esMD Technical Team will provide support in validating whether the intended information and/or outcome results are correctly received/processed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. The HIHs are requested to review the MR101 Reconciliation Report to verify that all the success and failure audits based on the transaction status are captured and displayed in the report.

Appendix A: Acronyms

Table 3: Acronyms

Acronym	Literal Translation
CHG	Change
CR	Change Request
CTC	Content Type Code
IG	Implementation Guide
ASC	Ambulatory Surgical Center
esMD	Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation
HIH	Health Information Handler
ID	Identifier
IG	Implementation Guide
MAC	Medicare Administrative Contractor
PA	Prior Authorization
RC	Review Contractor
TRC	Technical Release Changes
UAT	User Acceptance Testing
XDR	Cross-Enterprise Document Reliable Interchange
XML	Extensible Markup Language