



**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation  
(esMD)  
Release Summary for the April 2026  
(AR2026.04.0) Release**

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## Document Change History

Version Number	Date	Author/Owner	Description of Change
1.0	12/01/2025	Sridevi Muthili	Initial version of document for AR2026.04.0
1.1	01/20/2026	John Stevens/Sridevi Muthili	<p>AR2026.04.0 release version 1.1 contains the following changes:</p> <p>Updated Section(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed Section 2.1</li> </ul> <p>Updated Table(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table 1 - Removed HIH REST ICD, WMP/MAC Calls #1, Removed both WISeR Utility deliveries.</li> <li>• Table 1 - New dates for WISeR TRCs (Prelim. and Final), RC IGs, RC Call #1, Recon Rpt. Doc, UAT Test Data Template.</li> <li>• Table 1 - New descriptions for RC Test Data sharing and UAT Test Data Template.</li> <li>• Table 1 - Added date for new version of X12 278 CG.</li> <li>• Table 3 - Added info for Post-Pay Claims Universe and Delivery Confirmation Notifications</li> </ul>

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# 1. Overview

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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 the April 6, 2026, esMD Release (AR2026.04.0).

Section 2 Release Approach: Provides a high-level perspective of the esMD system functionality being developed and implemented in Production in AR2026.04.0.

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 AR2026.04.0: Summarizes the impact of changes in this release to HIHs and RCs.

## 2. Release Approach

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The April 2026 esMD Release AR2026.04.0 consists of business and system changes related to the following change requests (CRs):

- eChimp 14264 - WISeR Model Prior Authorization and Medical Review Process - Goldcarding, Reporting and Additional Requirements.
- eChimp 14244 - Implement X12 Format for Ambulatory Surgical Center Prior Authorization Program (ASC PA).
- eChimp 14097 - Streamline Document Exchange Through Updates to Selected Content Type Codes and esMD Functions. (CTC 9, 9.1 and 13).
- Delivery of eMDR Document Code File (DCF) list to Review Contractors and Data Centers.
- Continue Onboarding HIHs to esMD XDR FHIR

### 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 AR2026.04.0.

**Table 1: Release Schedule Dates for AR2026.04.0**

Event	Date
1. Release Summary Document for the AR2026.04.0 release v1.0 Delivered	12/15/2025
2. Release Summary Document for the AR2026.04.0 release v1.1	01/30/2026
3. Preliminary HIH Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document Delivered	01/08/2026
4. Preliminary RC Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document Delivered	01/08/2026
5. HIH Implementation Guide Delivered	01/19/2026
6. RC Implementation Guide for Java and .NET Delivered	01/26/2026
7. X12 278 Companion Guide for ASCs Program v19.0 Delivered	01/23/2026
8. X12 278 Companion Guide for ASCs Program v19.1	02/13/2026
9. HIH Technical Call - 1	01/13/2026
10. RC Technical Call - 1	01/15/2026
11. Steps for the RCs & HIHs to Understand the Reconciliation Report Document	02/04/2026
12. Final HIH Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document	02/12/2026
13. Final RC Technical Release Changes (TRC) Document	02/16/2026
14. Final WISeR Technical Release Changes (TRC)	02/12/2026
15. Final MAC (WISeR) Technical Release Changes (TRC)	02/12/2026
16. HIH Technical Call - 2	02/10/2026
17. RC Technical Call - 2	02/12/2026
18. Wiser Technical Call with Model Participants -	02/17/2026
19. Wiser Technical Call with RC MAC -	02/19/2026
20. RCs to share Test Data and Testing Scenarios for X12 ASC and Regression test	02/09/2026 – 03/27/2026
21. Share and review UAT Test Data Template with X12 participating RCs	02/05/2026
22. Document Code File (DCF) to be delivered to RCs and Data Centers in UAT.	03/04/2026
23. Document Code File (DCF) to be delivered to RCs and Data Centers in PROD.	04/06/2026
24. UAT Test Plan to Model Participants	02/26/2026
25. UAT Kick-Off	02/25/2026
26. UAT Timelines	03/02/2026 – 03/27/2026
27. Code freeze on UAT	03/30/2026
28. April 2025 Release Go Live	04/06/2026

## 4. HIH and RC High-Level Impacts for AR2026.04.0

This section lists the impact to the HIHs and RCs that result from the changes implemented in release AR2026.04.0. Updates to this Release are summarized in Table 2: esMD AR2026.04.0 Release Summary.

**Table 2: esMD AR2026.04.0 Release Summary**

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
eChimp 14264	WISeR Model Prior Authorization and Medical Review Process - Goldcarding, Reporting, and Additional Requirements.	Implementation	<p>As part of the upcoming release, the esMD System will begin receiving and delivering the following files to RCs (MACs) from Wiser Participants as part of Goldcarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exempt Provider Status File: This file will contain the list of all providers who are granted Goldcard status.</li> <li>2. Claims Recoupment File: This file will contain all claims from providers with overpaid amounts that must be recouped.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The above two files will be sent to the RCs with a new Transaction Type included in the metadata, as defined by esMD.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. MACs must perform end-to-end testing to ensure all the Requests and Responses sent to Model Participants and received from Model Participants are functioning as expected.</li> </ol>	<p>As part of the upcoming release there are no changes to the HIH as part of sending the PA Transactions for WISeR Model. HIHs may send any PA Transactions using CTC-8.19 for both WISeR and MACs.</p>

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The esMD ICDs, TRCs and Implementation Guides must be used as references that outline API methods, URLs, data attributes, error codes, error scenarios, sample requests and response files, sample test scenarios, etc.</li> <li>5. The MACs must provide UAT test scenarios and the corresponding expected outcome to the esMD team as part of WISeR Implementation.</li> <li>6. The MACs are requested to participate in the technical calls conducted by the esMD Technical Team as part of UAT Testing support.</li> </ol>	
eChimp 14244	Implement X12 Format for Ambulatory Surgical Center PA Program	Implementation	<p>As part of this release, there are no changes for the X12 PA Programs. A/B MACs are required to participate and perform some validations for the ASCs X12 PA Program during the UAT testing period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The MACs must execute certain test scenarios and process through the automated process back to esMD for the received ASC X12 278 PA Program batch files:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) PA Decision Response</li> <li>b) Administrative Error Response</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As part of this implementation, HIHs may submit ASC PA Inbound Requests in X12 278 format via esMD.</li> <li>2. The HIHs are required to participate and perform some validations for the ASC PA Program during the UAT testing period.</li> <li>3. The following two Program Indicators must be used to submit the request along with a procedure code and admin code:</li> </ol>

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. MACs are requested to send test data to the esMD Team for review.</li> <li>3. The esMD Technical Team will provide help and support the MACs to review the test data and test scenarios. Any gaps identified will be communicated if corrections are required.</li> <li>4. The esMD Technical Team will provide support to verify that the test results are correctly received/processed.</li> <li>5. The esMD Technical Team will conduct two technical calls with MACs to review the test template and test execution process.</li> </ol> <p>Note: There are no changes to the current layouts as part of this release.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B004 (must contain procedure code)</li> <li>• B005 (must contain both procedure code and admin code)</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The Procedure code must be submitted in the SV1 segment of the X12 transaction.</li> <li>5. The Proposed Date of Service (PDOS) may be a Date or Date Range in the 2010EA Loop of DTP segment and must always be a past date(s). PDOS must be a future date in 2000F loop.</li> <li>6. The Provide Type must be 'FA' and 'SJ' for the ASC program along with another combination of Provider Type in the Patient Event Level, and must be submitted in the 2010EA/NM1 of the X12 278 request.</li> <li>7. All current layouts and validations for X12 278 requests remain the same as applicable and have no changes. New validations for ASC are added to TRCs and Implementation Guides that will be delivered as per the schedule timelines.</li> </ol>

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
				<p>8. For the ASC Program, the UM04-02 must be 'B' in the X12 278 request.</p> <p>9. HIHs shall receive all responses from the A/B MACs for the ASC program.</p> <p>10. HIHs are requested to participate in two technical calls that will be conducted by esMD Technical Team to discuss the changes starting mid-January</p> <p>11. The esMD Technical Team will help and support the HIHs to review the test scenarios and identify any gaps and provide suggestions if required.</p> <p>12. The esMD Technical Team will verify whether the intended information and/or outcome results are correctly received/processed via esMD.</p>
eChimp 14097	Streamline Document Exchange Through Updates to Selected 'Content Type Codes' and esMD Functions. (CTC 9 , 9.1 and 13)	Implementation	<p>1. As part of this release, a new metadata element "esMD Parent Transaction ID" will be included in the XML metadata sent to the RC when for the following LOBs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• XDR Supporting Documentation (CTC-13) or</li> <li>• X12 275 Supporting Documentation</li> </ul> <p>2. For First Level Appeals (CTC-9) and Second Level Appeals</p>	<p>1. As part of this release, esMD has enhanced the following LOBs mandating the HIH to send the Claim ID in the following XDR Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First-Level Appeals (CTC = 9)</li> <li>• Second-Level Appeals (CTC = 9.1)</li> </ul>

Number	Title	Sub-Type	RC/SSM Impact	HIH Impact
			<p>(CTC-9.1) , the RCs will start receiving the Claim ID in the RC metadata.</p> <p>3. RCs are requested to participate in UAT to perform some testing to verify that the new metadata element is part of the Zip Package received for the above transactions.</p> <p>4. Refer to the RC TRC document for the format, validation check, and error messages for the associated change.</p>	<p>2. All current Claim ID format checks will remain same (Standard and Composite).</p> <p>3. HIHs must participate in the UAT and submit couple of First and Second Level Appeals transactions to esMD.</p>
CHG04	Delivery of eMDR Document Code File (DCF) list to Review Contractors	Implementation	As part of this release, the esMD system will deliver the Document Code File (DCF) to data centers and RCs.	NA
NA	HIHs & RCs Perform Regression Testing for all LOBs that They Support in the Production Environment as Part of FHIR Implementation	Regression Testing	<p>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 the HIH along with the associated Transaction ID.</p> <p>1. RCs must report any issues identified during Regression Testing to esMD Team.</p>	<p>All HIHs are requested to participate in UAT and perform Regression Testing for all LOBs they support in the esMD Production environment.</p> <p>1. HIHs must report any issues identified during Regression Testing to esMD Team.</p>

## 5. Wiser Model Participants High-Level Impacts for AR2026.04.0

This section lists the impact to the participating Model Participants that result from the changes implemented in release AR2026.04.0. as part of Wiser Implementation are summarized in Table 3: esMD AR2026.04.0 Wiser Release Summary.

**Table 3: esMD AR2026.04.0 Wiser Release Summary**

Number	Title	Sub-Type	Wiser Model Participant Impact
eChimp 14264	WISeR Model Prior Authorization and Medical Review Process - Goldcarding, Reporting, and Additional Requirements.	Implementation	<p>As part of the upcoming release, the esMD System will start accepting and delivering the following files from RCs (MACs) to Wiser Participants as part of Goldcarding changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PA Requests Submission File: This file will contain all the PA requests received from exempted Providers.</li> <li>2. UPIC Provider Review File: This file will contain all the Providers who are under review by Unified Program Integrity Contractors (UPICs) from RCs.</li> <li>3. Post-Pay Claims Universe: This file contains the “universe” of claims that the WISeR Model Participants (WMPs) will use to create the Claims Recoupment File that will be delivered to RCs by WMPs via esMD.</li> </ol> <p>The above files will be sent to the RCs with new Transaction Types included in the metadata, as defined by esMD.</p> <p>As part of the upcoming release, the esMD System will start providing Delivery Confirmation notifications for WMPs to notify them that HIHs/Providers acknowledged delivery of decisions that resulted from CTC 8.19 PA submissions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WMPs will retrieve these notifications using the Status API.</li> </ol> <p><b>UAT Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WISeR Model Participants (WMPs) must perform end-to-end testing during UAT and ensure all requests and response transactions sent</li> </ol>

Number	Title	Sub-Type	Wiser Model Participant Impact
			<p>and received by esMD are processed to MACs and are functioning as expected.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. WMPs can refer to the esMD ICD and TRC documents for the list of new transaction types, error codes, error scenarios, sample request and response files, sample test scenarios, etc.</li> <li>3. The esMD Technical Team will provide support as needed for reviewing test scenarios and the corresponding expected outcomes for esMD as part of the WISeR Implementation.</li> <li>4. WMPs are requested to participate in the technical calls conducted by the esMD Technical Team as part of UAT Testing.</li> </ol>

## Appendix A: Acronyms

Table 4: Acronyms

Acronym	Literal Translation
API	Application Programming Interface
ASC	Ambulatory Surgical Center
CHG	Change
CR	Change Request
CTC	Content Type Code
DCF	Document Code File
eMDR	Electronic Medical Documentation Request
eCHIMP	Electronic Change Information Management Portal
esMD	Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation
FHIR	Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources
HIH	Health Information Handler
ICD	Interface Control Document
ID	Identifier
LOB	Line of Business
PA	Prior Authorization
PDOS	Proposed Date of Service
PROD	Production Environment
RAC	Recovery Audit Contractor
RC	Review Contractor
REST	Representational State Transfer
SSM	Shared System Maintainer
TRC	Technical Release Changes
UAT	User Acceptance Testing
UPIC	Unified Program Integrity Contractor
URL	Universal Resource Locator
WISeR	Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction
WMP	WISeR Model Participant
XDR	Cross-Enterprise Document Reliable Interchange
XML	Extensible Markup Language