

Connectivity Types Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the connectivity methods available for Plans to send and receive MAPD enrollment files and reports. Each connectivity method has a brief overview as well as a side-by-side comparison to assist Plans in making an informed decision when choosing the best method for their Plan.

T1 Connect: Direct

T1 Connect: Direct is the connectivity type for large Plans participating in the MAPD program (those with 100,000 or more beneficiaries and/or a file size greater than 10GB) and should be implemented using a private CMS WAN Ethernet connection and IBM's Connect: Direct software.

A private CMS WAN Ethernet connection directly connects the Plan to the CMS Network. The software to support the data transfer across the private connection is Connect: Direct, a product that can be licensed from IBM. Plans are expected to fund the cost of the ethernet connection and software license.

Plans seeking to establish a new private connection to the CMS Network with Connect: Direct software should complete the Health Plan Management System (HPMS) Plan Connectivity Data (PCD) Module form at <https://HPMS.cms.gov> then sign and return the PCD form to MAPDHelp@cms.hhs.gov. Additionally, the Plan will need to submit the 'Request for Server to Server Access to CMS for Enterprise File Transfer (EFT) Corporate Secure Point of Entry (SPOE) ID Form' and return to DPOISSO@cms.hhs.gov. It is optional but recommended to include MAPDHelp@cms.hhs.gov.

TIBCO Managed File Transfer (MFT)

This connectivity type is for both large and small Plans and utilizes one of the following options (for a breakdown of file size and options please see the next page):

TIBCO MFT Internet Server (IS)

- **Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP)** is a secure internet server hosted by the Plan. Organizations opting to use the SFTP with the TIBCO MFT Internet Server will be required to obtain SPOE ID from CMS and to host a Secure Shell (SSH) server with a Digital Signature Algorithm (DSA) or Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA) public key.
- **Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)** is a secure Web interface to provide connectivity to the TIBCO MFT Internet Server hosted by CMS. Users will login to the TIBCO MFT Internet Server Web interface to send data to CMS.

TIBCO MFT Platform Server (PS)

This option is for internal CMS Baltimore Data Center (BDC)/Leidos Managed Data Center (LMDC) connectivity.

Gentran

This connectivity type is for small Plans, less than 100,000 beneficiaries, participating in the MAPD program. File size is limited to less than 2GB. Gentran is an option limited to small Plans because of its file size restriction. With Gentran, Plans have the option to manually submit files (individual IDM User ID required) or to do an automated SFTP pull (SPOE ID required).

3rd Party

3rd Party connections task a vendor solely with file submissions on behalf of the Plan. It is the Plans responsibility to discuss connectivity options with the vendor. The connection that is used will be at the discretion of the 3rd Party.

The 3rd Party vendor will not have access to alter the Plan's Plan Connectivity Data (PCD) within HPMS. It is the Plan's responsibility to alter all connection configurations.

Plans seeking this connection will be required to use a SPOE ID (this ID must belong to the Plan). A Plan may use an existing SPOE ID if they already have one assigned with their Parent Organization. Should a SPOE ID not be assigned, the "**Request for Server to Server Access to CMS Enterprise File Transfer (EFT) Corporate Secure Point of Entry (SPOE) ID Request Form**" must be completed and sent to DPOISSO@cms.hhs.gov, CC'ing the MAPDHelp@cms.hhs.gov email is advised but not required.

MAPD Plan Connectivity Summary

Plan Connectivity	Connect: Direct	TIBCO Internet Server (SFTP/ HTTPS)	TIBCO Platform Server (PS)	Gentran
Plan Size	Greater than 100,000 Beneficiaries	No Beneficiary Count Limit ¹	No Beneficiary Count Limit ²	Less than 100,000 Beneficiaries
File Size Limit ³	Greater than 10 GB	Less than 10 GB	Less than 10 GB	Less than 2GB
Login ID	SPOE ID	SPOE ID	SPOE ID	IDM User ID, SPOE ID
Multiple File Upload/ Download	✓	SFTP only	✓	SFTP only
Mailbox Set Up	✓	✓	✓	✓
CMS WAN Ethernet Connection	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a
Internet Connection	n/a	✓	✓	✓
Software Installation	✓	SFTP only	✓	n/a
SPOE ID Form Needed	✓	✓	✓	(optional unless utilizing a 3 rd party or automating)
EFT Partner Server Form	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Host SSH Server with a DSA or RSA 2048-bit public key	n/a	SFTP only	n/a	n/a
Web Interface hosted by CMS	n/a	HTTPS only	✓	✓
Automation Possible	✓	✓	✓	(with SPOE ID)
Plans Pull Files	n/a	n/a	✓	✓
EFT Pushes Files	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Plan Pushes Files	✓	✓	✓	✓
File Transfer Status via Email	n/a	By request	n/a	n/a

¹ Although typically used for less than 100,000 beneficiaries, larger Plans can utilize this setup as well.

² Although typically used for less than 100,000 beneficiaries, larger Plans can utilize this setup as well.

³ The number of files is not limited by CMS. The number of records is constrained by the file size limit of the Connectivity type.