

PROVIDER BULLETIN

No. 14-36

October 27, 2014

TO: All Providers Participating in the NE Medicaid Program
All Medicaid EDI Trading Partners

FROM: Ruth T. Vineyard, Deputy Director *RTV*
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

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Medicaid IT Initiatives

RE: Affordable Care Act Administrative Simplification (AS) Requirements for
HIPAA Electronic Transactions: Eligibility for a Health Plan (270/271) and
Health Care Claim Status (276/277)

Project: AS-ECS (Administrative Simplification - Eligibility and
Claim Status) Implementation

Please Share This Information With Administrative, Billing, IT Staff and Trading Partners.

This Provider Bulletin provides information for providers and Trading Partners who submit HIPAA electronic transactions for eligibility status (270/ 271) and claim status (276/277).

All HIPAA covered entities, including providers, clearinghouses and payers, are required to comply with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements to implement the CORE Phase I and Phase II Operating Rules for two HIPAA transactions: eligibility for a health plan (270/271) and health care claim status (276/277). This project is known as the Medicaid AS-ECS (Administrative Simplification - Eligibility and Claim Status) Implementation Project. The addition of operating rules to standard transactions is expected to assist providers in receiving more robust and complete responses to their inquiries for eligibility and claim status information.

The AS-ECS Project is being implemented via two Tracks in which providers and/or Trading Partners may see changes. For Track 1 (Operating Rules 154, 258, 259 and 260), implemented July 28, 2013, the data content of the 270/271 Eligibility Status

Transaction was expanded. For more information see:
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/AS-ECS.aspx>

Track 2 (Operating Rules 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 250 & 270):

Track 2 implements the option for Trading Partners to use Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) across the public internet for the 270/271 and/or 276/277 transactions. While it is mandatory for Health Plans to offer this connectivity method, it is **optional** for Trading Partners to use. NE Medicaid will continue to support SFTP connectivity for all HIPAA X12 transactions.

○ **Upcoming Changes:**

- Connectivity methods for the 270/271 Eligibility Status and 276/277 Health Claim Status transactions will include the addition of HTTPS.
 - Real-time responses for individual requests will be compliant with CORE Rules 155 & 156.
 - Trading Partners will have the option to submit the 270/271 and/or 276/277 batch transaction(s) through HTTPS, as well as the current SFTP connectivity methods.
 - Companion Guide template will change.
 - A static IP address will be required by Trading Partners for each machine the Trading Partner uses for HTTPS connectivity.

○ **Target Implementation Date:** March 2015.

○ **Trading Partner Testing:** Watch for an upcoming Trading Partner Alert for information about testing the new connectivity for the 270/271 and 276/277 transactions. Nebraska Medicaid will be reaching out to Trading Partners to test; however, if interested, please contact the **EDI Help Desk** at DHHS.MedicaidEDI@nebraska.gov or 866-498-4357.

NOTE:

- There will be **no change** required for the current **batch** processing of the 270/271 eligibility status or the 276/277 claim status transactions through SFTP or for other HIPAA X12 transactions.
- **Nebraska Medicaid will continue to support the four ways used today for Client Eligibility Verification.** For more information see: http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med_eligibility.aspx.
- **Nebraska Medicaid will continue to support Internet Access for Providers to Medicaid Claim Status Inquiry (MCCS) and Medicaid Client Eligibility Verification (RFS6).** This service allows providers immediate access to claim status and client eligibility information. For more information on Internet Access for Providers, see: http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med_internetaccess.aspx.

If you are not familiar with the Operating Rules, known as CORE Phase I and Phase II, they are available at no charge from the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange® (CORE) Web site at: http://caqh.org/ORMandate_Eligibility.php.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please submit them to DHHS.ACAEDIAAdminSimp@nebraska.gov or call the EDI Help Desk at 866-498-4357 or 402-471-9461.