
Program Memorandum Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal B-02-053

Date: JULY 31, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2276

SUBJECT: Implementation of the ASC X12N 278 Version 4010 Implementation Guide for Electronic Referral Certification and Authorization

Under the terms of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Secretary of Health and Human Services has established the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12N (Insurance Standards Subcommittee) 278 (Health Care Services Review—Request for Review and Response) version 4010 implementation guide (IG) as the national standard for electronic transmission of Referral Certification requests and Authorization responses. This standard must be used by all health care plans, including Medicare's durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs) that conduct Referral Certification and Authorization. DMERCs and their standard system maintainer must complete implementation of the X12N 278 version 4010 by October 16, 2003, to meet the requirements of the administrative simplification provisions of HIPAA.

This Program Memorandum (PM) directs the DMERC standard system maintainer to begin analysis and flat file requirements development for implementation of the X12N 278 version 4010 IG. This analysis must begin during the 5-month period preceding January 1, 2003. The IG can be downloaded at www.wpc-edi.com/hipaa. The standard system maintainer must develop a flat file that includes all required and applicable situational data elements as established in the IG, and that complies with the data content length and other data attributes established in that IG. The standard system maintainer must also develop a map between that flat file and the X12N 278 version 4010 segments and data elements for use during translation of data between the flat file and the X12N 278 formats.

Another PM will be issued in approximately 90 days with more detailed instructions and due dates for standard system maintainer and DMERC X12N 278 version 4010 implementation.

The X12N 278 implementation requirement applies to the DMERCs and their standard system maintainer only for Medicare fee-for-services purposes. Other standard systems and carriers do not conduct prior authorization.

The *effective date* for this PM is July 31, 2002.

The *implementation date* for this PM is August 1, 2002.

This PM may be discarded after October 1, 2003.

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