News Flash – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released 4 podcasts and a video slideshow presentation of the May 18, 2011, national provider call on "CMS ICD-10 Conversion Activities, Including a Lab Case Study." The podcasts, slideshow presentation, and written transcripts are now available at http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/Tel10/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1246998 on the CMS website. The 4 audio podcasts with corresponding written transcripts, as well as the full written transcript of the call can be accessed by scrolling to the "Downloads" section at the bottom of the page. To access the video slideshow presentation, select the link in the "Related Links Outside CMS" section of the webpage.

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Medicare Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation (esMD)

Provider Types Affected

This Special Edition (SE) affects all Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) providers who submit medical documentation to Medicare review contractors.

Provider Action Needed

STOP – Impact to You

Each year, the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) Program makes billions of dollars in estimated improper payments. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) employs several types of Medicare review contractors to measure, prevent, identify, and correct these improper payments. Review contractors find the improper payments by requesting medical documentation from each provider who submitted a questionable claim. The review contractor then manually reviews the claims against

the submitted medical documentation to verify the providers' compliance with Medicare's rules.

Currently, review contractors request medical documentation by sending a paper letter to the provider. The provider has two options for submitting the requested records: 1) mail paper, or 2) send a fax.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Medicare's Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation (esMD) pilot project gives some providers a new mechanism for submitting medical documentation to review contractors. A list of review contractors that will accept esMD transactions can be found at http://go.usa.gov/kr4 on the Internet.

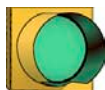The esMD pilot will begin in September of 2011.

The primary intent of esMD is to reduce provider costs and cycle time by minimizing and eventually eliminating paper processing and mailing of medical documentation to review contractors. A secondary goal of esMD is to reduce costs and time at review contractors.

In order to send medical documentation electronically to review contractors, Medicare providers, including physicians, hospitals, and suppliers, must obtain access to a CONNECT-compatible gateway.

- Certain larger providers, such as hospital chains, may choose to build their own gateway.

- Many providers may choose to obtain gateway services by entering into a contract or other arrangement with a Health Information Handler (HIH) that offers esMD gateway services.

A list of HIHs that offer esMD services as of September 2011 can be found in the "Key Points" section of this article. An updated listing of the HIHs that have been approved by CMS to offer esMD services can also be found at http://go.usa.gov/krg on the Internet.

CMS does not set the price that an HIH may charge a provider for esMD services. Providers who believe it may be more efficient to respond to documentation requests electronically are encouraged to contact one or more of the HIHs to determine if esMD services are available at a reasonable price.

GO – What You Need to Do

You should know that esMD is completely voluntary. You may continue to mail or fax documentation to your review contractor.

The initial esMD system accepts Portable Document Format (PDF) files, which means that even those providers who have paper records may utilize esMD services as long as there is a mechanism to scan the paper records into PDF files. Some HIHs may offer scanning services in addition to their esMD services.

Key Points

The following are tentative schedules of when HIHs will be ready to offer esMD services and when Review Contractors will be ready to accept esMD:

HIH/Web Address	Scheduled Readiness*
HealthPort (http://www.healthport.com)	September 2011
IVANS (http://www.ivans.com)	September 2011
MRO (http://www.mrocorp.com)	September 2011
NaviNet (http://www.navinet.net)	September 2011
RISARC (http://www.risarc.com)	September 2011
eSolutions (http://www.ecorpnet.com	November 2011
Cobius (http://www.cobius.com)	November 2011
IOD, Inc. (http://www.iodincorporated.com)	November 2011
Proficient Health (http://www.proficienthealth.com)	November 2011
Craneware (http://www.craneware.com)	November 2011
MDClick (http://www.mdclick.com)	November 2011
Medical Electronic Attachment (http://www.mea-fast.com)	November 2011
EHR Doctors (http://www.ehrdoctors.com)	November 2011
ApeniMED (http://www.Apenimed.com)	November 2011
HealthIT+ (http://www.healthitplus.com)	November 2011
ECC Technologies (http://www.ecctec.com)	January 2012
Stratice Healthcare (http://straticehealthcare.com/)	January 2012
AT&T (http://www.att.com/healthcare)	January 2012
CureMD (http://www.curemd.com)	January 2012
MediConnect (http://www.mediconnect.net)	January 2012
MediCopy (http://www.medicopy.net)	January 2012

HIH/Web Address	Scheduled Readiness*
Cal eConnect (http://www.caleconnect.org)	January 2012
LMRP Manager (http://www.racmanager.com)	January 2012
SSI (http://www.thessigroup.com/)	January 2012
Verisma Systems (http://www.verismasystems.com)	January 2012
Zydoc (http://www.zydoc.com)	January 2012
Ivertex (http://www.ivertex.com)	April 2012

Medicare review contractors include the Recovery Auditors (RACs), Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) contractor, the Program Error Rate Measurement (PERM) contractor, and Zone Program Integrity (ZPIC) contractors.

The following shows when some of these contractors will be accepting esMD transactions:

Review Contractors	Scheduled Readiness*
RAC A - Diversified Collection Services (DCS)	September 2011
RAC B - CGI Technologies and Solutions	September 2011
MAC J1 and J11 - Palmetto GBA	September 2011
MAC J3 - Noridian Administrative Services	September 2011
MAC J4 - Trailblazer Health Enterprises	September 2011
MAC J5 - Wisconsin Physicians Services Health Insurance Corporation	September 2011
MAC J9 - First Coast Service Options	September 2011
MAC J12 - Highmark Medicare Services	September 2011
MAC J14 - NHIC	September 2011
DME MAC A - NHIC	September 2011
DME MAC D - Noridian Administrative Services, LLC	September 2011
CERT - Livanta	September 2011

Review Contractors	Scheduled Readiness*
PERM - A+ Government Solutions	September 2011
MAC J10 - Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators	November 2011
MAC J13 - National Government Services	November 2011
DME MAC B - NGS	November 2011
ZPIC 1 - Safeguard Services LLC	November 2011
ZPIC 7 - Safeguard Services LLC	November 2011
RAC D - HealthDataInsights	November 2011
MAC J15 - CIGNA Government Services, LLC	January 2012
DME MAC C - Palmetto GBA	January 2012

These are anticipated dates and subject to change. Please check the esMD website (http://www.cms.gov/ESMD) for more information.

NOTE: CMS expects that the Region C and D Recovery Auditors and remaining MACs will begin accepting esMD transactions within the next 12 months.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact the review contractor to which you wish to send esMD transactions. MAC toll-free numbers can be found at http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip on the CMS website.

For more information, visit the esMD webpage at http://www.cms.gov/esmd on the CMS website. You might also try the Twitter Link, which is **@CMSGov** (Look for #CMS_esMD).

For more information on the Medicare Recovery Audit program, see the MLN Matters® article SE1024 at http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1024.pdf on the CMS website. You may contact your Recovery Auditor for questions you have of them. Their contact information is at http://www.cms.gov/RAC/Downloads/RACcontactinfo.pdf on the CMS website.