835 Electronic Remittance Advice Companion Guide

Refers to the Implementation Guides Based on ASC X12 version 005010

March 2024

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Preface

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates implementation of Administrative Simplification operating rules to promote greater uniformity in the exchange of electronic health care data. The Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE) is part of the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) initiative. CAQH CORE has authored operating rules to be implemented in phases for HIPAA-standard electronic data interchange (EDI) transactions, including the Health Care Claim Payment/Advice (835).

This Companion Guide to the v5010 ASC X12N Implementation Guides and associated errata adopted under HIPAA clarifies and specifies the data content when exchanging electronically with VBA. Transmissions based on this companion guide, used in tandem with the v5010 ASC X12N Implementation Guides, are compliant with both ASC X12 syntax and those guides. This Companion Guide is intended to convey information that is within the framework of the ASC X12N Implementation Guides adopted for use under HIPAA. The Companion Guide is not intended to convey information that in any way exceeds the requirements or usages of data expressed in the v5010 ASC X12N Implementation Guides.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Scope

The HIPAA transaction implementation guides for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions are called Technical Reports, Type 3 (TR3s). These TR3s provide guidelines for submitting and receiving HIPAA-standard EDI transactions. The TR3s require transmitters and receivers to make certain determinations. The VBA 835 Electronic Remittance Advice Companion Guide does not replace the HIPAA ASC X12N TR3s, nor does it attempt to amend any of the information therein. It does not impose any additional obligations that are not permitted to be imposed by the HIPAA standards for electronic transactions. If inconsistencies exist between the terms of this companion guide and the TR3(s), the relevant TR3(s) will govern with respect to HIPAA edits. The VBA Companion Guide will govern with respect to business edits.

The VBA 835 Electronic Remittance Advice Companion Guide provides supplemental information to the Trading Partner Agreement (TPA) that exists between VBA and its electronic trading partners. Trading partners should refer to their TPA for guidelines pertaining to any legal conditions surrounding implementation of EDI transactions and code sets. Information contained in this companion guide is not intended to amend, revoke, contradict, or otherwise alter the terms and conditions of the TPA. If there is an inconsistency with the terms of this guide and the terms of the TPA, the terms of the TPA shall govern.

Overview

HIPAA requires that the health care industry in the United States comply with the EDI standards as established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The ASC X12 835 v005010X221A1 is the established standard for the benefit enrollment and maintenance transaction.

The companion guide contains assumptions, conventions, determinations or data specifications that are related for all providers, vendors and other submitters of the 835 transactions. It is critical that your software vendor or IT staff review this document carefully and follow its requirements to send HIPAA-compliant files to VBA.

References

This companion guide should be used in conjunction with the HIPAA mandated, Health Care Claim Payment/Advice (835) 005010x221A1 TR3.

Additional Information

The reader of this companion guide is assumed to be a provider who has established a provider record with VBA and/or the provider's designated billing agent (billing service or clearinghouse) that transmits to or receives electronic data from VBA. For the purposes of this document, the reader may be referred to as a trading partner or a provider.

In addition to the 835 ERA, trading partners are encouraged to conduct other HIPAA-standard EDI transactions when conducting business with VBA. Before, during and after the claim submission process, electronic transactions help maximize administrative efficiencies, reduce unnecessary paper waste, decrease the need to conduct time- consuming telephone transactions, increase security of VBA members' protected health information and promote greater accuracy with faster completion of each transaction. For additional information on the variety of EDI transactions available and/or supported by VBA, refer to the HIPAA EDI page of www.vbaplans.com.

Getting Started

Working with VBA

VBA offers a flexible, standards-compliant platform for supporting the electronic exchange of the electronic remittance advice information (ERA) to further streamline and automate the manual efforts usually associated with maintaining such information in multiple systems.

VBA will serve as your partner in the efforts to establish a successful integration solution.

Trading Partner Registration

VBA receives an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) Enrollment Form from the contracted provider, billing service, vendor or clearinghouse (on behalf of the provider). Once the trading partner information is verified, a link to the companion guide on the VBA website and a copy of the trading partner-specific information will be emailed to the sender of the ERA Form.

Certification and Testing Overview

This section provides a general overview of what to expect during any certification and testing phases.

If a provider does EFT/ERA, the 835/ERA can be processed four business days prior/after the EFT is processed.

The 835 transaction(s) will be placed on VBA's SFTP server in the production/outbound folder.

Provider must be an established provider with VBA to enroll in 835/ERA transactions.

Connectivity with the Payer/Communications

Process Flows

Files are sent out monthly.

ERA must be provided four business days before or after the provider receives the EFT.

If the ERA is not provided within four business days, email edi@vbaplans.com.

VBA Holiday Schedule

- New Year's Day

- Memorial Day

- Independence Day

- Labor Day

- Thanksgiving Day and the day after

- ½ day Christmas Eve

- Christmas Day

- ½ day New Year's Eve

Retransmission

VBA can retransmit the 835/ERA file on the same day by contacting edi@vbaplans.com

Communication Protocols

Files can be retrieved on VBA's SFTP site (**sftp://ftp.vbaplans.com:22**) in the production/outbound folder.

Passwords

If you cannot connect, check to see if the static IP of the receiver has changed. Please send the new static IP to edi@vbaplans.com to be safelisted.

Contact Information

EDI Customer Service
For assistance with ERA enrollment questions and/or to report late/missing ERA files, email edi@vbaplans.com.

EDI Technical Assistance
For assistance with provider vendor, clearinghouse or billing questions and/or technical support, contact your vendor.

Provider Service Number
You may contact VBA Provider Relation's at 1-800-432-4966 opt. 6 to speak to a Provider Relation's Representative. Our representatives are available to answer your questions Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 6:00pm ET

Applicable Websites/E-mail
A copy of the 835 Companion Guide can be found at www.vbaplans.com or can be requested at edi@vbaplans.com.

Control Segments/Envelopes ISA-IEA

Control Segments apply to all transactions and include the ISA and GS Segments. These segments are part of every transmission structure. The parameters outlined below are applicable to provider clearinghouses that have a direct connection with VBA.

ISA-IEA

This section describes VBA's use of the interchange control segments. It includes a description of expected sender and receiver codes, authorization information and delimiters. All positions within each of the data elements must be filled. The ISA segment can be considered a fixed record length segment.

ISA05 –ZZ

ISA06 – VBA

ISA07 – ZZ or 30

ISA08 – Interchange receiver ID

ISA15 – defines whether the transaction is a T(est) or P(roduction)

GS-GE

This section describes VBA's use of the functional group control segments. It includes a description of expected application sender and receiver codes.

GS02 – is the same as ISA06

GS03 – is the same as ISA08

VBA-Specific Business Rules and Limitations

This section describes VBA's business rules.

- The receiver must be a valid trading partner to receive ERA transactions.

- VBA will transmit ERA as part of the claims adjudication process. EFT is not required to receive ERA.

Trading Partner Agreements

This section contains general information concerning Trading Partner Agreements (TPA). An actualTPA may optionally be included in an appendix.

Trading Partners

An EDI Trading Partner is defined as any VBA customer (provider, billing service, software vendor,employer group, financial institution, etc.) that transmits to, or receives electronic data from VBA.

Payers have EDI Trading Partner Agreements that accompany the standard implementation guide to ensure the integrity of the electronic transaction process. The Trading Partner Agreement is related tothe electronic exchange of information, whether the agreement is an entity or a part of a larger agreement, between each party to the agreement.

For example, a Trading Partner Agreement may specify among other things, the roles andresponsibilities of each party to the agreement in conducting standard transactions.

Transaction-Specific Information

Loop ID	Seg ID	Element ID	Element Description	Element Values / Format	Element Note	Required / Situational /Optional	Value to Pass
	ISA	01	Authorization Info Qualifier	**00** = No Auth Info		R	00
	ISA	02	Authorization Info	BLANK	Space fill 10 characters	R	Spaces
	ISA	03	Security Info Qualifier	**00** = No Security Info		R	00
	ISA	04	Security Info	BLANK	Space fill 10 characters	R	Spaces
	ISA	05	Interchange Sender ID Qualifier	01 - Duns (Dun & Bradstreet) 14 - Duns Plus Suffix 20 - Health Industry Number (HIN) 27 - HCFA Carrier Identification Number 28 - HCFA Fiscal Intermediary Identification Number 29 - HCFA Medicare Provider and Supplier Identification Number 30 - U.S. Federal Tax Identification Number 33 - NAIC Company Code ZZ - Mutually Defined		R	ZZ
	ISA	06	Interchange Sender ID	Sender Tax ID or Mutually Defined ID	Sender EIN (if ISA05 is 30) Left justify and space fill to 15 total characters	R	VBA

Loop ID	Seg ID	Element ID	Element Description	Element Values / Format	Element Note	Required / Situational /Optional	Value to Pass
	ISA	07	Interchange Receiver ID Qualifier	01 - Duns (Dun & Bradstreet) 14 - Duns Plus Suffix 20 - Health Industry Number (HIN) 27 - HCFA Carrier Identification Number 28 - HCFA Fiscal Intermediary Identification Number 29 - HCFA Medicare Provider and Supplier Identification Number 30 - U.S. Federal Tax Identification Number 33 - NAIC Company Code ZZ - Mutually Defined		R	VBA Assigned
	ISA	08	Receiver ID		Left justify and space fill to 15 total characters	R	VBA Assigned
	ISA	09	Interchange Date	YYMMDD		R	File generation date
	ISA	10	Interchange Time	HHMM		R	File generation time
	ISA	11	Repetition Separator	^		R	^
	ISA	12	Interchange Control Version #	**00501**	834 Standard Version	R	00501
	ISA	13	Interchange Control #		The Interchange Control Number, ISA13, must be identical to the associated Interchange Trailer IEA02	R	Control Number
	ISA	14	Acknowledgement Requested	**0** = No Acknowledgement Requested **1** = Interchange Acknowledgement Requested		R	0
	ISA	15	Usage Indicator	**P** = Prod **T** = Test		R	This will need to be set to 'T' while testing and then changed to 'P' before going live.
	ISA	16	Component Element Separator	"**>**" or "**:**"	Component Separator	R	:

Loop ID	Seg ID	Element ID	Element Description	Element Values / Format	Element Note	Required / Situational /Optional	Value to Pass
			Segment Terminator	~	Segment terminator may not be a Carriage Return, Line Feed, New Line or any combination thereof.	R	~
	GS	01	Functional ID Code	HP		R	HP
	GS	02	Sender ID	SAME AS ISA06		R	VBA
	GS	03	Receiver ID	SAME AS ISA08		R	VBA Assigned
	GS	04	Date	CCYYMMDD		R	File generation date
	GS	05	Time	HHMM		R	File generation time
	GS	06	Group Control Number			R	Control Number
	GS	07	Responsible Agency Code	X		R	X
	GS	08	Version/Release Code	005010X221A1		R	005010X221A1
	ST	01	Transaction ID Code	835		R	835
	ST	02	Transaction Set Control #			R	Control Number
	ST	03	Implementation Convention Reference	005010X221A1		R	005010X221A1
	SE	01	Number of Included Segments	Segment count including ST and SE		R	Transaction Segment Count
	SE	02	Transaction Set Control Number		The Transaction Set Control Number, SE02, must be identical to the Transaction Set Control Number ST02	R	Must be identical to ST02
	GE	01	Number of Transactions Sets Included		Total number of transaction sets included in the functional group or interchange (transmission) group	R	

Loop ID	Seg ID	Element ID	Element Description	Element Values / Format	Element Note	Required / Situational /Optional	Value to Pass
	GE	02	Group Control Number		The data interchange control number in GE02 must be identical to GS06, Group Control Number	R	Must be identical to GS06
	IEA	01	Number of Included Functional Groups		A count of the number of functional groups included in an interchange	R	
	IEA	02	Interchange Control Number		A control number assigned by the interchange sender	R	Must be identical to ISA13

Appendices

This section contains one or more appendices.

Implementation Checklist

- Receive the ERA Enrollment Form from the trading partner.

- Identify receiver primary contacts.

- Receive static IP address of the receiver.

- Establish SFTP credentials.

- Complete transaction validation process prior to production.

Transmission Examples

ISA*00*   *00*   *ZZ*VBA   *30*123456789   *211001*1417*^*00501*000001645*0*T*:~

GS*HP*251149206*ECCA*20211001*1417*1624*X*005010X221A1~

ST*835*1624~

BPR*I*931.95*C*CHK***********20210930~

TRN*1*64*1251149206~

REF*EV*000003141~

DTM*405*20210929~

N1*PR*Vision Benefits of America~

N3*400 Lydia Street*Suite 300~

N4*Carnegie*PA*15106~

PER*CX*Claim Department*TE*4128814900~

PER*BL*EDI Support*TE*4128814900*EM*ITHelpDesk@vbaplans.com~

N1*PE*VISION PAYEE*XX*1234567893~

REF*TJ*123456789~

LX*10~

CLP*PCN000099*1*312*101*175.5*12*3943090393*21*1~

NM1*QC*1*Fletcher*Lawrence****MI*3141~

REF*G1*3943090393~

DTM*050*20210715~

AMT*AU*276.5~

SVC*HC:V2781*82*39~

DTM*472*20210713~

CAS*CO*91*-15*1~

CAS*PR*2*58*1~

REF*LU*VP04059~

REF*6R*EP081318619275727-02~

AMT*B6*97~

SVC*HC:V2744*70*0~

DTM*472*20210713~

CAS*PR*2*70*1~

REF*LU*VP04059~

REF*6R*EP081318619275727-03~

AMT*B6*70~

LQ*HE*N174~

SVC*HC:V2020*160*62~

DTM*472*20210713~

CAS*CO*45*67.5*1*91*-17*1~

CAS*PR*2*47.5*1~

REF*LU*VP04059~

REF*6R*DDATA-TESTCL1-01~

AMT*B6*109.5~

CLP*PCN000003*1*193.75*95.75*62.5*12*8436857238*21*1~

NM1*QC*1*Fletcher*Ferb~

NM1*IL*1*Fletcher*Lawrence****MI*3141~

REF*G1*8436857238~

DTM*050*20210815~

AMT*AU*158.25~

SVC*HC:V2784*6*6~

DTM*472*20210810~

REF*LU*VP04059~

REF*6R*EP081318619275728-03~

AMT*B6*6~

SVC*HC:V2020*175*62~

DTM*472*20210810~

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CAS*PR*2*62.5*1~

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AMT*B6*124.5~

SVC*HC:V2100*12.75*27.75~

DTM*472*20210810~

CAS*CO*91*-15*1~

REF*LU*VP04059~

REF*6R*EP081318619275728-02~

AMT*B6*27.75~

CLP*PCN000002*1*194*89.75*81.5*12*5594261780*12*1~

NM1*QC*1*Flynn-Fletcher*Linda~

NM1*IL*1*Fletcher*Lawrence****MI*3141~

REF*G1*5594261780~

DTM*050*20210915~

AMT*AU*171.25~

SVC*HC:V2100*0*27.75~

DTM*472*20210901~

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SVC*HC:V2020*175*62~

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CAS*PR*2*62.5*1~

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CLP*PCN000004*1*250*50*200*12*3509956272*12*1~

NM1*QC*1*Flynn*Phineas~

NM1*IL*1*Fletcher*Lawrence****MI*3141~

REF*G1*3509956272~

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AMT*AU*250~

SVC*HC:V2500*250*50~

DTM*472*20210831~

CAS*PR*2*200*1~

REF*LU*VP04059~

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CLP*PCN000005*1*288*98*189*12*9277582317*12*1~

NM1*QC*1*Bear*Yogi****MI*1234~

REF*G1*9277582317~

DTM*050*20210831~

AMT*AU*287~

SVC*HC:V2781:PP*80*36~

DTM*472*20210813~

CAS*CO*94*-21*1*91*-15*1~

CAS*PR*2*80*1~

REF*LU*VP09678~

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AMT*B6*116~

SVC*HC:V2782:TR*60*0~

DTM*472*20210813~

CAS*PR*2*60*1~

REF*LU*VP09678~

REF*6R*EP081318619275729-03~

AMT*B6*60~

LQ*HE*N174~

SVC*HC:V2750:PA*49*0~

DTM*472*20210813~

CAS*PR*2*49*1~

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NM1*QC*1*Bear*Booboo~

NM1*IL*1*Bear*Yogi****MI*1234~

REF*G1*8436566706~

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AMT*AU*125.75~

SVC*HC:V2100*12.75*27.75~

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NM1*IL*1*Bear*Yogi****MI*1234~

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NM1*QC*1*Rubble*Barney****MI*7890~

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SE*285*1624~

GE*1*1624~

IEA*1*000001645~

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions contain a compilation of questions and answers relative to VBA and its trading partners.

Q: What is the enrollment process for ERA?

A: Receive ERA enrollment form from the provider.

Q: Can I be enrolled in 835/ERA and EFT?

A: Yes, you can be enrolled in both 835/ERA and EFT.

Q: Should files always use ~-for the segment terminator

A: Yes '~' should always be used for the for the segment terminator

Q: Is the member's SSN returned on the file?

A: Only the last four digits of the member's SSN number is returned.

Change Summary

The Change Summary log below will be used to document revisions that are made after the initial publication of this guide.

Version	Date	Change Description
V1	1/2022	Updated VBA holiday schedule.
V2	3/2024	Updated EDI Email Adress