

Companion Guides

Presented at the 2003 CMS MMIS/HIPAA Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
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Kristine Weinberger, Senior Consultant for ACS
Randy Fillmore, LA HIPAA EDI QA Lead for Unisys

Agenda

- What is a companion guide
- Rules for writing companion guides
- Examples of “dos and don’ts”
- Case study of Louisiana’s automated creation of companion guides

What is a Companion Guide?

- Implementation Guide Clarification

A Companion Guide may not:

- Modify a data element or segment
- Add additional data elements or segments
- Utilize invalid codes
- Change meaning or intent

Additional Information

- Transmission Methods and Procedures
- Transmission Acknowledgements
- Data Retrieval Methods
- Testing Requirements and Procedures

Additional Information cont.

- Support Contact Information
- Enrollment Requirements
- Transmission Phone Numbers
- Receiver/Payer Identification Number

A Companion Guide may not:

- Modify a data element or segment
- Add additional data elements or segments
- Utilize invalid codes
- Change meaning or intent

Clarification

“Dos and Don’ts”

Use Caution.....

- Situational Notes
- Format
- Values
- Limits
- Other

Summary

- Provide clarification
- May not alter intent of IG
- May include other types of information
- Should include a statement –
“use in conjunction with IG”

Resources

- <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp/faqtx.htm#hplanschangeclaim>
- X12 Implementation Guides:
Section 1.1 "Document Purpose" -
Trading Partner Agreements Section

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Automatic Generation
Of Companion Guides

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Agenda

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- The right tools for the job
- What do they do?
- How will they help Louisiana Medicaid and their submitters become HIPAA ready?

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The right tools for the job...

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EDIFECS

- Spec Builder, HIPAA Edition
 - Author type 7 payer specific edits
 - Automatically create CGs
- www.hipaadesk.com
 - Upload custom IGs
 - Online submitter testing community

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Edifecs' Spec Builder...



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- Edifecs' Spec Builder 5.1, HIPAA Edition
 - Custom development of type 7 payer specific edits for testing submitters
 - Automatic generation of custom CGs in .rtf format
 - Custom electronic IGs
 - Sample

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Sample Spec Builder CG

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| ISA | | Interchange Control Header | Pos: | Max: 1 | | |
|------------|-----------|---|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| | | | Not Defined - Mandatory | | | |
| | | | Loop: N/A | Elements: 15 | | |
| <u>Ref</u> | <u>Id</u> | <u>Element Name</u> | <u>Req</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Min/Max</u> | |
| ISA06 | I06 | Interchange Sender ID | M | AN | 15/15 | |
| | | LA Medicaid: Use your 7 digit Unisys-assigned Submitter ID followed by spaces. Unisys Submitter IDs look like 45XXXXX | | | | |
| ISA08 | I07 | Interchange Receiver ID | M | AN | 15/15 | |
| | | LA Medicaid: Use the following value for this element: LA-DHH-MEDICAID | | | | |

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Edifecs' *www.hipaadesk.com*

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- Upload IGs to our HIPAA testing community in www.hipaadesk.com
- Submitters test against WEDI-SNIP types 1-7 including LA Medicaid payer specific edits.
- www.hipaadesk.com is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week and is FREE to all LA Medicaid submitters.
- All testing within the LA Medicaid HIPAA community is moderated by Unisys.

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www.hipaadesk.com cont.

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- Once a submitter has enrolled, everything they need is available to them within LA Medicaid's testing community in www.hipaadesk.com
 - Testing instructions
 - Companion guides
 - Trading Partner Agreements
 - EDI guide for transmitting & retrieving files

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How do they help?...

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Easy management of:

- Multiple submitters testing simultaneously
- Multiple test files for each submitter before final approval
- Multiple error reports for each submitter
- Multiple emails to facilitate submitter testing

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How do they help....(cont.)

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- Mitigates the risk:
 - Submitter's can test on their own schedule
(Software vendors have said they are going to develop their software late so they can avoid sending out updates)
 - Unpredictable demands on testing staff for testing facilitation
 - Predictable results from controlled testing criteria
 - Superior support of LA submitters who are testing for HIPAA readiness

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How do they help....(cont.)



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■ Outreach

- **Q: Providers have asked for a list of Software Vendors, Billing Agents, and Clearing Houses(VBC).**
- **A: Unisys produces a weekly VBC list to inform providers who has enrolled, their stated capabilities, and their status toward approval by LA Medicaid.**

Companion Guides

- **Questions?**
- **Contact Information:**
 - **Kristine.Weinberger@acs-inc.com**
 - **Randall.Fillmore@unisys.com**

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