dasG

DATA ANALYTICS & SYSTEMS GROUP

Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation

esMD

STREAMLINED DATA EXCHANGE

The esMD system is an enterprise-level business re-engineering, business transformation, and business system modernization effort that helps different entities eliminate the need to mail or fax paper documents.

CMS Medicare review contractors (RCs) use entries in health records to measure, prevent, and correct improper payments on claims in the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) program. RCs include:

- Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)
- Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs)
- Unified Program Integrity Contractors (UPICs)
- Single Medical Review Contractors (SMERCs)

- Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) auditors for Medicare and Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM)
- Medicaid auditors for Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)

Features

The esMD system allows providers, suppliers, health information handlers (HIHs), and gateway services to exchange information and documentation electronically with RCs during the claims review process.

- RCs can submit Additional Document Requests (ADRs) to providers and exchange solicited documents with other CMS adjudicators. RCs can also share medical documentation with each other.
- HIHs can use the esMD system to provide software and communication services allowing providers and suppliers to exchange documentation with RCs.
- Providers and suppliers can submit prior authorization requests, respond to RAC/MAC/CERT audits, and file Level I and II claim appeals.

In addition to reducing provider burden, the esMD system supports CMS's broader eHealth Initiative.

Standards

The esMD adheres to the following standards:

- Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare, Inc (CAQH)
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI X 12)
- eHealth Exchange / Nationwide Health Information Network Exchange (NwHIN)
- XDR Enterprise Document Reliable Interchange
- Health Level-7 (HL7)

Goals

CMS is expanding the esMD to leverage the latest interoperability standards—such as HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)—to exchange structured documentation via the FHIR project.

To enhance CMS's documentation modernization initiatives, the esMD will be converted to a fully electronic program hosted on the Amazon Web Services cloud.