CMS Manual System

Pub 100-01 Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement

Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal 30

Date: OCTOBER 28, 2005

Change Request 4150

SUBJECT: Initiate STC testing of the MCS for RRB and HIGLAS

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This transmittal is required to initiate STC testing of the MCS for RRB and to implement the capability for the STC to test the MCS with HIGLAS.

NEW/REVISED MATERIAL
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 01, 2006
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: April 03, 2006

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)
R = REVISED, N = NEW, D = DELETED – *Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	Chapter / Section / SubSection / Title
R	7/40.3/Shared System Testing Requirements for Maintainers, Beta Testers, and Contractors

III. FUNDING:
No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2006 operating budgets.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Business Requirements
Manual Instruction

Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.

Attachment - Business Requirements

Pub. 100-01	Transmittal: 30	Date: October 28, 2005	Change Request 4150

SUBJECT: Initiate STC testing of the MCS for RRB and HIGLAS

I.   GENERAL INFORMATION

A.   Background:

On May 26, 2005 the new Single Testing Contractor (STC) Contract was awarded.   The STC initiated testing with the October 2005 release. The STC served as the secondary tester while the incumbent Beta testers served as the primary testers. With the January 2006 release the STC will assume the role as the primary tester while the current Beta testers serve as the secondary tester.

This CR is required for the MCS to accommodate future STC integrated testing of HIGLAS and RRB functionality.

B.   Policy:

The STC shall use Medicare Contractor Number (Carrier number):

- o   00880 for Medicare fee-for-service integrated testing without HIGLAS.
- o   00888 for Medicare fee-for-service integrated testing with HIGLAS.
- o   00882 for Medicare fee-for-service Railroad Board testing.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility ("X" indicates the columns that apply)								
		FI	RHHI	Carrier	DMERC	Shared System Maintainers				Other
						FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	HIGLAS
4150.1	The STC shall use Carrier number "00888" for future Part-B Carrier integrated testing with HIGLAS.						X			X
4150.1.1	The MCS Shared System Maintainer (SSM) shall set-up a separate SPITAB environment and unique 2-byte Plan Code for STC testing with HIGLAS.						X			
4150.1.2	The MCS SSM shall provide the instructions and processes required to operate the HIGLAS MCS environment, where different from the standard non-HIGLAS environment.						X			
4150.1.3	The MCS SSM shall facilitate changing the carrier number and plan code in data files as required for creation of the STC HIGLAS test environment.						X			
4150.2	The STC shall use Carrier number "00882" for RRB integrated testing.						X			
4150.2.1	The MCS Shared System Maintainer (SSM) shall set-up a separate SPITAB environment and unique 2-byte Plan Code for STC RRB testing.						X			
4150.2.2	The MCS SSM shall provide the instructions and processes required to operate the RRB MCS environment, where different from the standard non-RRB environment.						X			
4150.2.3	The MCS SSM shall facilitate changing the carrier number and plan code in data files as required for creation of the STC RRB test environment.						X			

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION

None

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

A.   Other Instructions:

X-Ref Requirement #	Instructions

B.   Design Considerations:

X-Ref Requirement #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements

C.   Interfaces: N/A

D.   Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact: N/A

E.   Dependencies: N/A

F.   Testing Considerations: N/A

V.   SCHEDULE, CONTACTS, AND FUNDING

Effective Date: February 1, 2006 **Implementation Date:** April 3, 2006 **Pre-Implementation Contact(s):** Scott Mueller, (410) 786-0480 **Post-Implementation Contact(s):** Scott Mueller, (410) 786-0480	**No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2006 operating budgets.**

40.3 - Shared System Testing Requirements for Maintainers, Beta Testers, and Contractors
(Rev. 30; Issued: 10-28-05; Effective Date: 02-01-06; Implementation Date: 04-03-06)

Medicare requires implementation of a limited number of shared systems that must be used by all FIs and carriers. This eliminates the need for each Medicare Contractor to repeat development of the basic system.

CMS requires that the shared system quarterly release be subjected to the complete testing life cycle prior to production release. The goal is to ensure that all changes function as intended and that the implementation of changes does not degrade or otherwise unintentionally affect existing system capability and function prior to implementation. This requires that the shared system be subjected to all levels and types of testing including unit testing, integration testing, systems testing, functional testing, interface testing, performance testing, regression testing, and operational testing. Definitions are provided in subsection 40.3.9.

The Shared System Maintainer and the Medicare Contractor each have specific roles in testing the shared system quarterly release. Additionally, CMS contracts with an FI, Carrier, DMERC, and CWF Host to act as a Beta tester for the FISS, MCS, VMS-B/DME, and CWF systems respectively.

Effective with the January 2006 Release the CMS Single Testing Contractor (STC) will assume primary responsibility for testing the Medicare Shared Systems and CWF. The STC will be fully responsible for meeting the requirements of the Beta tester as outlined in Chapter 7, Section 40.3, including all subsections. STC interface testing with HIGLAS will be initiated in *April* 2006 as a shadow test on Part A. *The STC shall also initiate Railroad Board (RRB) testing with the April 2006 release.* Two new Medicare Contractor numbers are established to accommodate STC testing, 00888 for Carrier systems testing and 00388 for Fiscal Intermediary systems testing.

This section identifies the testing responsibilities for each organization to ensure that each shared system quarterly release satisfies all CMS requirements. All organizations shall have processes in place to meet these requirements. Testing activities will generally begin 3 to 4 months in advance of the release date, particularly for shared system maintainers and the CWF maintainer.