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July 27, 2011

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HIPAA - National 5010 Testing Days are Underway

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As part of the upcoming transition to the 5010 transaction standards (which will replace the existing version of the X-12 standards for all HIPAA covered entities) CMS has organized “National 5010 Testing Days.” CMS has explained that the testing days will encourage collaboration between providers and the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) by allowing providers to “to come together and test compliance efforts that are already underway with the added benefit of real-time help desk support and direct and immediate access to MACs.”

The first testing day was held June 15, 2011, but there is another upcoming on August 24, 2011. The mandatory compliance deadline for all covered entities to adopt and implement the 5010 standards remains January 1, 2012. Additional information on the transition and the testing days can be found on [CMS's Transaction Standards website](#), or can be requested from a provider's own MAC.

Ober|Kaler's Comments

Transition to the new standards should be well underway for most providers, with Level 1 compliance having been required at the end of last year. Level I compliance means “that a covered entity can demonstrably create and receive compliant transactions, resulting from the compliance of all design/build activities and internal testing.” The National Testing Days offer providers the opportunity to “pressure test” their transition and receive real-time guidance, as necessary.

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