

Getting Started with HIPAA TCS 837 Testing (Automated Testing Process)

- Notify your Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Services Representative of your intention to begin testing. If you do not have a contact name and number, call 205-220-2533.
- Contact your EDI Services Representative and submit a list of the provider numbers to be used during testing and to obtain directory information. You may email this information to EDIVendorTesting@bcbsal.org. Your EDI Services Representative will notify you when testing setup is completed as well as your directory information within 2 business days. Any test files submitted prior to testing setup will not be processed.
- Review testing procedures provided in the document named *ANSI ASC X12N 837 Test Submission* located on our web site:
<https://www.bcbsal.org/providers/vendors/hipaaTesting.cfm>
- Cut off time for test submission is 3:30 PM Central Standard Time (CST). Test files submitted after 3:30 PM CST will not be guaranteed test results the following business day, however, the results will be available the second business day.
- It is the responsibility of the submitter to retrieve test results from your directory. File availability time frames are listed below.
 - Claim files are unzipped and run through **Level 1*** and **Level 2*** edit checking every 2 hours beginning at 4:30 AM until 6:30 PM CST 7 days per week
 - **997**** and **Daily Log**** files are generated on the FTP server. The cutoff for further processing of the test (Level 3 business edits) is 3:30 PM CST. **This means if you submit a file after 3:30 PM CST you may receive a 997 and Daily Log file but you will not receive an audit report that includes business edits (Level 3) until the second business day.**
 - Files that pass Level 1 and Level 2 edits are picked up for **Level 3*** edit checking every 2 hours beginning at 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM CST Monday through Friday.
 - **Audit Reports**** are downloaded to the FTP Server at 11:00 PM for all claims files received before 3:30 PM CST Monday through Friday. Audit reports are only generated upon successful completion of Level 1 and Level 2 edit checking.
- Once you have successfully passed Levels 1, 2 and achieved an 85% pass rate of Level 3 (Business Edits), notify your EDI Services Representative regarding your final test submission. After evaluation of your test file, you will receive a Test Checksheet indicating your approval status.

- Upon notification of your test approval, vendors may begin transitioning providers to their HIPAA compliant software.
 - Utilize the *EDI Enrollment Request Form for New Electronic Submitters* to enroll new providers for EDI transaction use.
Your request must also include an *EDI Enrollment Form for Providers* if the provider you are enrolling does not already have an electronic relationship with Blue Cross.
 - All Forms can be downloaded from the Forms page on our web site:
<https://www.bcbsal.org/providers/forms.cfm>
Scroll down to the Electronic Data Interchange section for EDI forms.

Note: If you have not received notification for acceptance of your paperwork within 7-10 business days, contact your EDI Representative

***Edit Level Descriptions**

Level 1 – X12 standard edits – refer to X12 standards – limited support for error resolution by EDI Services Representative.

Level 2 – Implementation Guide (IG) edits – refer to ANSI ASC X12N 4010 Implementation Guide – limited support for error resolution by EDI Services Representative.

NOTE: If additional assistance is required for Level 1 and Level 2 error resolution, utilization of a third party certification vendor is recommended.

Level 3 – Business Level Edits –Edit checking specific to the line-of-business (Professional, Dental or Institutional private business). Errors are returned via the Audit Report and Electronic Report File (ERF). The Audit Report contains a large portion of the information in the ERF, however, it is a free form text file whereas the ERF is a source document in a proprietary format that can be translated within your software. If you wish to program for ERF translation within your software, the layout specifications can be downloaded from our web site:

<https://www.bcbsal.org/providers/vendors/pdfs/ERF%20Layout.pdf>

If you do not choose to offer this detailed information to your clients the Audit Report can be used to verify claim file submissions. For further clarification of level 3 test results, contact your EDI Services Representative.

****File Descriptions**

997 – Functional Acknowledgement – Standard ANSI ASC X12N 4010 transaction verifying acceptance or rejection of 837 claims file.

Daily Log File – Text file log initially generated upon creation of 997. One log file generated per date of transmission. Log file is appended to throughout the day as status of 837 claims files changes. Confirms receipt of file, unzip status, and detail of Level 1 and Level 2 edit errors.

Audit Report / Electronic Report File (ERF) – Files that are placed in your FTP directory upon completion of Level 3 edit checking. They include Level 1 and Level 2 edits.

- ▶ Claims that pass all edits are accepted for processing and a claim number is assigned.
- ▶ Claims that do not pass edits are listed in the files along with the reason they did not pass the edit.