

CMS Hospice Software Developer/Vendor Call

Topic: Technical Changes Related to the April 1, 2017 Hospice Release

MINUTES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00p.m. (ET)

Conference Call Number: 1-866-458-4949

Conference Code: 29976314

Welcome ----- Liz McKenna, DQSAS

Division of Quality Systems for Assessments and Surveys

- Welcome and thank you for joining our Hospice software developer/vendor call related to the Hospice Data submission of the Hospice Item Set (HIS).
- On this call we will cover the Hospice Technical Data Submission Specification v2.00.0 updates, VUT information, and submitted Q & As relating to the April 1, 2017 release. If time allows we will have an open Q & A session at the end of this call.
- If you do not have the agenda for this call, it may be found at <https://www.qtso.com> under the Vendors link on the left navigation bar then the Hospice link in the navigation bar at the top of the page.
- Please note that CMS policies related to the Hospice Item Set (HIS) are not the focus of the vendor calls.

Data Submission Specification Updates ----- John Jackson, General Dynamics

- A new, DRAFT version of the HIS Data Specifications was posted on the CMS Website on May 19, 2016. The version number is 2.00.0. These data specifications go into effect on April 1, 2017.
- Several new items have been added to the data specs:
 - A0550 (patient zip code)
 - A1400 items (payor types)
 - J0905 (a pain question)
 - O5000 through O5030 items capture the number of visits during the week before death.

We also have new item values for ITM_SET_VRSN_CD and SPEC_VRSN_CD, since both the item set and spec versions changed to v2.00.

Please check the Item Change report in the data specs for the comprehensive list.

- Since we have new items, we also have new edits for skip patterns and validation of values. For example, edits -3070 through -3072 and -3074 specify skip patterns for the new O5000 through O5030 items. Item A0550, the patient zip code, has its own format validation edit (-3068), while other items are mapped to existing format edits. There are quite a few more. Please review the Edit Change report to see additional details.
ALSO: Note that with the addition of item J0905 in the pain section, some edits were deleted as a result (-3039, -3042, -3061, -3062).
- Please continue to check the HIS Technical Information web page for any future updates and to be aware when the FINAL specs are posted.

Validation Utility Tool ----- John Jackson, General Dynamics

- The Hospice VUT will be updated to reflect the version 2.00.0 data submission spec changes. Since version 2.00.0 goes into effect on April 1, 2017, the VUT will be available sometime in February 2017. The VUT will function as it currently does. As always, support for past spec versions will continue to be present.

ASAP System Enhancements ----- Jana Linthicum, Telligen

- The ASAP system will edit records with a target date on or after April 1, 2017 using version 2.00.0 of the data specifications. It will continue to edit records with a target date prior to April 1, 2017 using the appropriate set of data specifications in effect for the target date of the submitted record. The target date is the admission date on an admission record and the discharge date on a discharge record.

Q and A from Hospice Mailbox ----- Liz McKenna, DQSAS

- No questions were submitted prior to this vendor/software developer conference call.

Open Q and A Session ----- Liz McKenna, DQSAS

- Q1.** Is there a plan for adding a command line argument to the VUT to automatically start the process instead of manually pushing the 'Go' button?
A1. That functionality was added in several past versions of the VUT. John Jackson will verify his code does include the command line as he had intended. The 'Read Me' file that accompanies each VUT version will indicate how to use the command line for this purpose.
- Q2.** When will the final version of the data specs be posted?
A2. August 2016.
- Q3.** When will the final item set be posted?
A3. August 2016. We will conduct provider training in January 2017.
- Q4.** Is there a plan to allow software vendors to submit directly to CMS instead of the user downloading the file and uploading to the ASAP system? Nurses get stumped with XMLs and zipped files. It would be easier for them to click a button.
A4. No plans of that nature are currently being considered or discussed. We do allow Third Party Access for vendors to submit on behalf of their clients. The Third Party Access Request Form is available on the QTSO website at <https://www.qtso.com/accessisbc.html>. Please note that we do not allow scripting of submissions into our ASAP system.
- Q5.** Currently the VUT is designed for Windows and is Java-based. Is there a plan for a VUT version designed for the Linux environment? We ended up using a Windows file share to run the VUT on Linux. The forward and back slashes are problematic as they relate to paths.
A5. We have not considered or discussed a Linux version. This request will be noted by CMS.

Closing ----- Liz McKenna, DQSAS

At the end of the agenda please note the important resources listed. Please feel free to email the HospiceTechnicalIssues@cms.hhs.gov mailbox if you have technical questions. Thank you for taking the time to join the call today and stay informed about changes to the Hospice program.

Important Resources

QTSO.com

<https://www.qtso.com>

<https://www.qtso.com/vendor.html>

<https://www.qtso.com/vendorhospice.html>

CMS.gov - Hospice Quality Reporting

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/index.html?redirect=/Hospice-Quality-Reporting>

CMS.gov - Spotlight & Announcements

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>

CMS.gov - HIS Technical Information

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HIS-Technical-Information.html>

CMS.gov - Details for CMS Form Number: CMS-10390 (Hospice Item Set)

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing-Items/CMS1252151.html?DLPage=1&DLSort=1&DLSortDir=descending>

Email - Hospice Technical Issues

HOSPICETECHNICALISSUES@cms.hhs.gov

Listserv

<http://www.cms.gov/OpenDoorForums>