CMS IRF-PAI and LTCH Software Developer/Vendor Call Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
1 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET
Teleconference: Zoom: 1-833-568-8864
Meeting ID: 161 289 3153
Password: 386686

Welcome ....**Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS**

Thank you for joining the CMS IRF-PAI and LTCH Software Developer/Vendor Call.

My name is Kimberlie Jasmin, and I will be facilitating today's call.

All participants please be advised that this meeting will be recorded only for documentation purposes.

The purpose of this call is to provide information to software developers and vendors in preparation for the implementation of both the IRF-Patient Assessment instrument (IRF-PAI) and LTCH Care Data Set (LTCH-CDS) on October 1, 2024.

Please note the resources listed at the bottom of the agenda. The minutes will be posted on the QTSO.cms.gov website within the next two weeks.

Thank you to those who submitted questions, comments, or concerns ahead of this afternoon's call.

I will now hand over the call to John Jackson.

Data Submission Specifications ....**John Jackson, GDIT**
New draft data specs have been posted on the CMS web site for both IRF (V5.02.0) and LTCH (V4.02.0). These specs go into effect on October 1, 2024. They match the new item sets for IRF (V4.2) and LCDS (5.10), which are available in the usual locations on the CMS web site. **NOTE: The draft specs for both are missing the newest allowed values for ITM_SET_VRSN_CD. This will be corrected in the final specs.**

So, what's new?

- The Section GG Goal items (and their associated edits) will be removed.
- New COV-19 Vaccination item (O0350). Valid values are 0, 1, and dash.
- All payer changes:
  - IRF only: A1400 items added. Remove items 20A and 20B. New edits -5167 through -5176.
  - LTCH only: New edits -4028 through -4035.

o   Regarding the new A1400 edits…some are WARNINGS, and some are FATALs. If it is a warning, the reason is that combination of A1400 items checked is unusual but will still be accepted by iQIES.

We anticipate publishing FINAL specs for IRF and LTCH in a couple of months. Please let us know if you find any issues, so we can avoid errata documents!

Regarding the data specs package that we publish:

We currently provide the following:

- The Microsoft Access data dictionary
- PDFs for each section of the assessment instrument, as well as the item change report, the edit change report, and the unduplicated edits by ID report
- Comma Separated Value (CSV) files for the item master and item value tables (and the ISC master and ISC value tables for LTCH)
- HTML files which allow users to navigate through the items and edits
- An Overview file for newcomers to the data specs.

Question: Are you using the Microsoft Access database as part of your workflow? If so, please respond to the helpdesk. If you don't respond, we will assume that you don't use it! Thanks in advance for getting back to us on this matter.

IQIES Submission System and Validation Utility Tool (VUT) Updates .... Elizabeth Kowal, ICF

The iQIES submission processing system and VUT will edit records with a target date on or after October 1, 2024, using version 4.02.0 of the LTCH data specifications and version 5.02.0 of the IRF Data specifications.

With this release, iQIES will continue to edit records with a target date prior to October 1, 2024, using the appropriate set of data specifications in effect for the target date of the submitted record.

No planned changes to the interfaces and access to the VUT remains the same.
The data specification for IRF version 5.02.0 and LTCH version 4.02.0 is ready for vendors to test in the VUT and provide feedback.

If any changes occur prior to 10/1/2024, a notice will be sent out.

Discussion of Submitted Q & A's... Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS

Q1: I have a question about the draft IRF-PAI data specifications version 5.02, specifically regarding the new Consistency Warnings for the new A1400 items that include the word "should", such as -5169, which reads:

(a) If A1400X=[1], then A1400A through A1400J should equal [0].

(b)If A1400X=[1], then A1400Y should equal [0].

Consistency Warnings -5172, -5173, -5174, -5175, and -5176 are similarly worded.

My question is, what is the intent of these warnings? If users shouldn't be sending the combinations of values that trigger those warnings, why are they not Fatal errors? How does CMS want users and vendors to interpret these warnings?

A1: The technical data specification edits referenced in your inquiry are considered "warning edits" and not "fatal edits." While CMS does not expect that there will be a high occurrence of the codes combinations, there could be instances where both the referenced payer(s) types apply to a patient's stay.

Q2: I need clarification on what the ITM_SET_VRSN_CD will be for IRF-PAI's submitted 10/01/24 and after. The paper IRF-PAI and the manual appear to be marked as 4.2, but in the V5.02.0 data specs it only goes to 4.0. Do the specs still require additional updates, or are we still considering the IRF-PAI for 10/2024 V 4.0?

A2: The IRF-PAI data specs v5.02.0 should have included 4.2 as a valid value for ITM_SET_VRSN_CD. The final spec will include the 4.2 as a valid value as previously mentioned on the vendor call.

Q3: (1) For A1400, it is noted that if A1400A=[1], then A1400B must equal [0]. However, it is NOT noted that if A1400B=[1], then A1400A must equal [0]. Instead, A1400B logic repeats the logic from A1400A and says again: if A1400A=[1], then A1400B must equal [0]. Can you verify that for A1400B it should really be if A1400B=[1], then A1400A must equal [0]?

(2) Also, for A1400C, it is noted that if A1400C=[1], then A1400D must equal [0]. However, it is NOT noted that if A1400D=[1], then A1400C must equal [0]. Instead, A1400D logic repeats the logic from A1400C and says again: If A1400C=[1], then A1400D must equal [0]. Can you verify that for A1400D it should really state If A1400D=[1], then A1400C must equal [0]?

(3) Can you verify that A1400 will not allow a dash?

A3: The goal was to prevent the two items being compared from both being checked, and as long as one of the comparisons is in place, it can't happen. For example, "if A1400A is 1, then A1400B must be 0" is in place. If A1400A and A1400B are checked (so both are equal to 1), then the existing fatal edit will fire. Adding "if A1400B is 1, then A1400A must be 0" accomplishes the same goal, so it is redundant. However, CMS will include your suggestion and add the add the converse logic in the final spec since it might be useful to vendors/users if they want to apply skip logic for both items.

Open Q and A Session ....Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS

There were no questions received during this session.

Closing Comments...Ellen Berry & Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS

We encourage you to review the data specs and send us any issues, concerns, and comments, sooner rather than later. We want to ensure we have a good product and that you have a good product as well. Your feedback is helpful. Even though we have reviewed the data specs numerous times, we are human and extra eyes are always helpful and appreciated.

Thank you for joining today's call. We appreciate the collaboration between our various partners to ensure a successful implementation of various CMS assessment instruments, not only by CMS but also you through your product.

As always if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please send them to the iQIES Help Desk mailbox at iQIES@cms.hhs.gov. I would like to thank our speakers for today's call. John and Liz for an excellent job. And thank you for calling in to stay updated on the future changes to the IRF and LTCH Quality Reporting programs.

Have a great rest of the week!

Important Resources

QTSO Website
https://qtso.cms.gov/
https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors/
https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors/inpatient-rehabilitation-facility-irf-pai-vendors
https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors/long-term-care-hospital-ltch-vendors

iQIES Website

https://iqies.cms.gov/
https://iqies.cms.gov/vut
https://iqies.cms.gov/known-issues
https://iqies.cms.gov/help

CMS.gov - IRF and LTCH Quality Reporting

IRF - https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/index.html

LTCH - https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/LTCH-Quality-Reporting

CMS.gov - IRF and LTCH Technical Information
IRF - https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/InpatientRehabFacPPS/Software

LTCH - https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/LTCH-Quality-Reporting/LTCH-Technical-Information

E-mail IRF and LTCH Technical Issues
IQIES@cms.hhs.gov

Listserv

https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums
https://qtso.cms.gov/news-and-updates/subscribe-new-cms-iqies-listserv