

Communications and Connectivity

Trading partners are responsible for the purchase of communication protocol packages and access support for the dial-up process to the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse.

The Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse acts as a delivery system for all ANSI ASC X12N transactions. It receives, identifies and forwards batch transactions to the appropriate clearinghouse or payer system. Furthermore, as an electronic interface connecting the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse and/or payer systems, and the provider community, the Gateway provides for the distribution of Claim Edit Reports (Refer to **Chapter IV, Transaction Processing**), Remittance Files and other information.

This chapter provides information that trading partners need to connect to the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse. Content also includes information to help you prepare files for BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid.

System Requirements

In order to transfer a transaction file electronically to the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse, you need the ability to:

- Create an electronic file in the required format.
- Pre-edit all required fields for content and format before the files are transferred.
- Resubmit unreadable data.
- Correct and resubmit electronic transactions that fail the front-end edits.
- Communicate with the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse via one of the communication protocol options.

Communication Protocol Options

The following list of protocol options includes asynchronous file transfer protocols and other protocols where a dial-up process is not used to connect to the Internet Service Provider (ISP). Contact EDI Solutions if you need to review the options in detail.

Asynchronous File Transfer Protocols

- Zmodem
- Kermit

Other Protocols

- File Transfer Protocol (FTP) supported by Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)
- Direct Dial-Up Access using PPP
- Unix to Unix Communication Protocol (UUCP)

Data Compression

Trading partners are strongly encouraged to use data compression as a means to optimize data transfer. Data compression enables devices to transmit the same amount of data in fewer bits so that the transmission requires less memory. Data files can be compressed to a small fraction of their normal size. Thus, data compression enables faster file transmission.

Three types of data compression software include:

- Software used before making the connection to the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse
- Software built into the data transfer protocol and used to transfer the data
- Software/hardware built into some modems

Data compression software supported:

- PKZIP/GZIP - available for many DOS, Windows and UNIX based platforms.
- UNIX Compress - available on UNIX based platforms.
- UNIX Pack - available on UNIX based platforms.

Data transfer protocol compression software supported:

- Kermit Protocol Compression - available in many communication software packages.

Procedures

The communication dialogue that takes place between your system and the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse should be automated by the use of communication scripts. We are limited to full scripting control for ProComm only. After you have selected your communication protocol, please contact EDI Solutions for any necessary logon scripts or logon instructions specific to your chosen communication protocol.

Submitting Transactions

Before you begin submitting transactions through the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse, trading partners must perform the following processes:

- Evaluate and select either the self-sufficient or EDI vendor approach
- Install and/or enable the data communications software, and
- Work with EDI Solutions for development, testing and approval.

Refer to **Chapter II, Getting Started** for more information on these processes.

After your environment is fully prepared, your EDI Testing Coordinator will assign your trading partner identification numbers and logon/password information, and continue to work with you through approval testing.

The ANSI ASC X12N Implementation Guides (IG) provide instructions on how to prepare files so that they comply with the HIPAA standards. The Companion Documents in Section 2 of this EDI User Guide, provide specific information regarding transaction processing. Use the Companion Documents in conjunction with the IGs.

This chapter explains how to prepare, name a file, set up the envelope and control segments, compress and submit transactions to the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse.

Preparing Transaction Files

In general, to prepare an EDI claims file for submission, the submitter must perform the following procedures:

- 1) Prepare the file as indicated in the IG and the appropriate Companion Document.
- 2) Prepare the Envelope and Control Segments as explained in the IG and in each Companion Document (see details on the following page).
- 3) Name the file and send the file as explained in the remaining sections of this chapter.
- 4) When preparing transaction files (in particular, healthcare claim transactions), keep in mind:
 - Transactions must be batched in separate Functional Groups by Application Receiver Code (Segment GS, GS03).
 - **We require that Group Control Numbers (Segment GS, GS06) not be duplicated. This is critical, as the GS Control Number uniquely identifies each file. It cannot be used more than once in a given 365-day period.**

Enveloping

The Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse uses enveloping to route electronic submissions to their correct destination. If the routing is incorrect, these submissions cannot be directed appropriately and successfully. This scenario is analogous to sending mail through the United States Postal Service.

For example, if you mail a letter without a complete and correct address on the envelope, it cannot be delivered. The envelope directs the mail. Similarly, with EDI transactions, the standard enveloping includes:

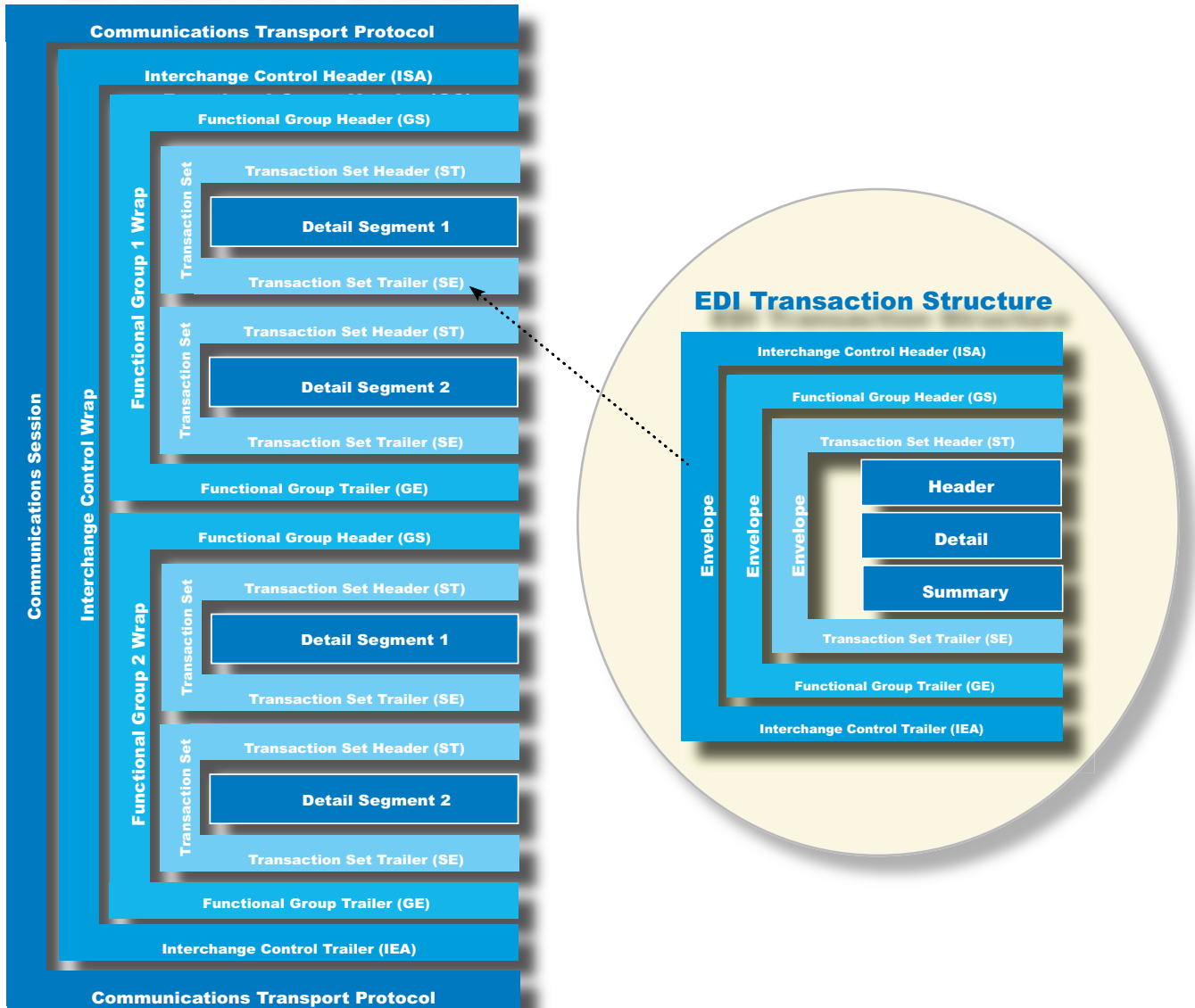
- Interchange Control Header (ISA),
- Interchange Control Trailer (IEA),
- Functional Group Header (GS), and
- Functional Group Trailer (GE).

The ISA identifies the company, the GS identifies the department, and the transaction set identifier code indicates the type of document being transmitted electronically. The segment details are described in the Companion Documents, briefly in **Chapter VIII, Acknowledgments and Reports**, and **Chapter VII, Control and Enveloping Segments**.

EDI Transmission Structure

Each transmission can be divided into five distinct areas: Communications Transport Protocol, Interchange Control Wrap (ISA/IEA), Functional Group Wrap (GS/GE), Transaction Set Wrap (ST/SE), and the body of the transaction.

EDI Transmission Structure



EDI Transaction Structure

These different wraps are “envelope wraps” enclosing the transactions sets. The envelopes contain IDs and other pertinent information allowing the document to be electronically transferred to and from the appropriate locations.

The transaction sets may be divided into the Header, the Detail and the Summary. The header area refers to information that is common to the entire transaction set. The detail area, which can occur or loop multiple times, pertains to baseline item information. The summary area contains information that applies to the entire transaction.

Naming Transaction Files

Trading partners who transmit files to BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid are not required to use specific naming conventions for the transaction files. However, it is strongly suggested that files be uniquely named. Please contact EDI Solutions in order to determine if any limitations apply to the naming conventions of the communication protocol you have selected.

Delimiters

Delimiters are an integral part of the data that is transmitted between you and BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid. They are characters used to separate two data elements (or sub-elements) or to terminate a segment. As explained in Appendix A.4 of your Implementation Guides, delimiters are specified in the ISA interchange header segment. The ISA segment is a 105 byte fixed length record composed of the following:

Delimiter	Recommended Character	Byte Number
Data Element Separator	* (asterisk)	4
Sub-Element Separator	(vertical bar)	105
Segment Terminator	~ (tilde)	Follows Component Element Separator

It is critical that you report to us your choice of delimiters for inbound transactions by completing the "Delimiters" section of the EDI Registration Form found in Chapter II, Getting Started. Failure to do so may result in your data file being rejected by the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse and/or your 997 Functional Acknowledgment not being returned.

File Compression

Data compression is especially useful in EDI communications because it enables devices to transmit the same amount of data in fewer bits with less memory. Data files can be compressed to a small fraction of their normal size. Thus, data compression allows trading partners to transmit files more quickly. A compressed transaction may contain one or more files.

After preparing and naming the EDI files and setting up the envelope and control segments, you may choose to compress (or ZIP) the files.

Duplicate Claim Submissions

To avoid unnecessary and inappropriate processing, do not send files more than once. If you are concerned that BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid did not receive your claims submission file, contact EDI Solutions (Refer to **Chapter VI, Contact Information.**) Research will be done to determine what you need to do. Do not resubmit claim files without receiving authorization to do so.

Hours of Operation

Claims may be sent to the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Refer to **Chapter IV, Transaction Processing**, for information concerning the schedule for retrieving your EDI response reports.

Receiving Transactions

This section provides information about retrieving files and receiving transactions from the Enterprise EDI Gateway/Clearinghouse. Topics in this section include delimiters used by BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid, file compression, naming conventions, and the procedure to retrieve an EDI file and receive transactions.

File Compression

BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid uses PKZIP by PKWARE, UNIX Pack, UNIX Compression, and UNIX gzip to compress reports and transaction files before transmitting them to trading partners.

Procedures to Receive Files

Specific procedures will vary depending on the communication protocol you have chosen. The following is an example of a procedure to receive files from BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid.

- 1) Receive the file using the command: "CD/Reports" and "Get Reports.ZIP"
- 2) Upon successful receipt, perform housekeeping using the command "Delete Reports.ZIP". Without this operation, future reports will be added to the same Reports.ZIP file resulting in report duplication on your system.
- 3) Sign off (Quit) from the FTP server.
- 4) To complete the process, disconnect the dial-up session to the AT&T Global Network.

Naming Conventions

The following chart explains the naming conventions for files that BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid sends trading partners.

In the column labeled Naming Conventions, each file type has two rows of information:

- 1) The first row shows the format (naming convention) and an example for the file type.
- 2) The second row provides a key to explain the characters within each naming conventions.

File Naming Conventions BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid to Trading Partner		
Type	Definition	Naming Convention
997	Functional Acknowledgment	Format: FAMMDDhhmmssnnn.### Example: FA0215104533001.837
		KEY — FA - Functional Acknowledgment MMDD - Date stamp showing month and day hhmmss - Time stamp showing hour, minute and seconds. nnn - Sequence number between 001 and 999 ### - Numeric transaction designation defined by HIPAA. References acknowledged transaction.
864	Text Message Transaction (Level 2 Status Report)	Format: TXMMDDhhmmssnnn.837 Example: TX0215105037002.837
		KEY — TX - Text Message MMDD - Date stamp showing month and day hhmmss - Time stamp showing hour, minute and seconds. nnn - Sequence number between 001 and 999 ### - Numeric transaction designation defined by HIPAA.

Use of some DOS based communication protocols may alter the format of the naming conventions.

Contact EDI Solutions to discuss whether the communication protocol you have selected will alter the format names.