

NM CHILI
Transaction Trading Partner
Testing and Certification Recommendation

Due to the heavy volume of work to be accomplished within a short window of time in order to reach HIPAA compliance, NM CHILI recommends that all New Mexico healthcare entities obtain third party certification of their electronic transactions prior to exchanging data with trading partners.

How is the certification process structured?

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) Strategic National Implementation Process (SNIP) website (<http://snip.wedi.org>) has issued a white paper titled Testing and Certification that identifies 6 levels of transaction testing. Levels 1-2 address specifics of the transaction format. Levels 3-4 address the transaction content and balancing of the data (e.g., a remittance date cannot be earlier than a date of service, or if certain data elements within a data segment are completed, others must also be present to “balance” the segment). Level 5 checks for code set accuracy, and level 6 verifies data that applies to certain healthcare specialties.

What is the recommendation?

All trading partner organizations exchanging the HIPAA standard ANSI X-12 or NCPDP transactions should obtain third party certification for each standard transaction before sending it to a trading partner. Trading partners should consider using the same tool. The benefits for NM CHILI members of standardizing on the same tool include:

- Use of one comprehensive certification approach for levels 1-6
- Use of a service or tool that maintains currency with Implementation Guide changes
- Use of a common certification standard/experience will reduce overall implementation and compliance problems.

When possible, trading partners should obtain certification through level 6. If levels 5 and 6 cannot be tested due to internal implementation issues (e.g., applications have not been upgraded to provide the data to test), the organization should certify through a minimum of level 4 before attempting to exchange data with a trading partner.

Specifically, all organizations should

- Test and certify all outgoing transactions
- Test the function of an internal translator in receiving and processing a standard transaction. Use test data supplied by a certification service or tool to perform this testing.
- Execute a Rules of Exchange Agreement requiring trading partners to obtain a minimum of level 4 certification before sending test data.
- Give priority on testing schedules to those organizations that have certified their transactions to a minimum of level 4 and a preferred level of 6.
- Use the NM CHILI website to post their certified transactions with certification level and service used.