

CMS Improved Data Sharing: Impacts to Territory Beneficiary Query (TBQ) and Enrollment Database (EDB) State File Exchanges

Questions and Answers

This document captures the questions posed and answers provided during the presentation on this topic held on June 10, 2021. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the State Data Resource Center (SDRC) Support Team. Questions can be submitted via email to SDRC@EconometricaInc.com or by phone at (877) 657-9889.

CMS Improved Data Sharing: Impacts to TBQ and EDB State File Exchanges

Question Number	Question	Answer
Transitioning from EDB State File Exchange to TBQ File		
1	Who should we contact with questions regarding the transition from EDB State File Exchange to TBQ File and/or to start the transition process?	Please contact the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) resource mailbox at CMSEDBFile@cms.hhs.gov for assistance.
2	When can states start transitioning from the EDB State File Exchange to the TBQ File Exchange? Can states transition to using the TBQ File before June 30, 2022?	Your state can start the transition process now! Please contact the CMS resource mailbox at CMSEDBFile@cms.hhs.gov for assistance.
3	Is there a document mapping the fields in EDB State File Exchange to the fields in TBQ File?	CMS is creating a resource that compares EDB State File Exchange data fields to TBQ File data fields. SDRC will share this resource once it is available.
4	Is there funding that will be made available to states for this IT change?	Updates to the State Medicaid Management Information System are likely eligible for the 90/10 federal medical assistance percentage as set forth in 1903(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act.
5	Can a state continue to use the EDB State File Exchange until June 30, 2022?	Yes, states can continue to use the EDB State File Exchange until June 30, 2022. The EDB State File Exchange will be retired on June 30, 2022. States should consider their internal processes, schedule, and file testing needs when deciding when to transition to the TBQ File. CMS cautions that waiting until June 30, 2022 to transition to the TBQ File may cause a disruption in the state's ability to query CMS data should a state request changes to their file transfer set-up and/or require file testing.

Question Number	Question	Answer
6	<p>Are states required to use the Amazon Web Services (AWS) platform and access the TBQ File via Application Programmable Interface (API)?</p> <p>When can my state use the API?</p>	<p>No. States currently using the TBQ File may continue using the same electronic file transfer setup as they did prior to 2021. States now have the option to use the AWS platform and access the TBQ File via API, however.</p> <p>States that are using the EDB State File Exchange will have to switch over to using the TBQ File. These states may choose to access the TBQ File via API or a traditional electronic file transfer. There is no requirement for states to access the data via API.</p> <p>CMS began migrating the TBQ File process to a cloud-based platform with API functionality in early 2021. CMS staggered the implementation of these updates to states; the status of the migration is transparent to the state. Once migrated to the new platform, states may access the TBQ File via API. If a state does not want to use the API at this time, the state will still have the option to switch over to an API in the future if desired. States are not required to be on AWS for this to happen.</p>
7	<p>We currently only populate the Social Security Number (SSN) field in the EDB Finder File. Can we do the same for the TBQ Request File?</p>	<p>Yes, states can use the SSN field in the TBQ Request File. For more information on the TBQ File layout, see the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug State User Guide.</p>
8	<p>Can we use the TBQ File instead of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) File?</p>	<p>No. The TBQ File is an optional data query made available to states to access Medicare eligibility and entitlement data. The MMA File Exchange is an operational file exchange as established in the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, where states identify all people who are dually enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid to CMS. Effective April 1, 2022, the Interoperability and Patient Access final rule requires states to submit MMA Files on a daily basis.</p>
TBQ File Information		
9	<p>What is the turnaround time to receive a TBQ Response File?</p>	<p>After a state submits a TBQ Request File, the turnaround time is typically within 24 hours. The TBQ Request Files are processed on a first in, first out basis.</p>
10	<p>Will there be any changes to the content or layout of the TBQ File?</p>	<p>No, the current TBQ File will remain the same.</p>

Question Number	Question	Answer
11	When will states be able to submit more than 1 million records in a TBQ Request File?	<p>CMS began migrating the TBQ File process to a cloud-based platform with unlimited record count capabilities in early 2021. CMS staggered the implementation of these updates to states; the status of the migration is transparent to the state. Once migrated to the new platform, states may submit a TBQ Request File with more than 1 million records.</p> <p>By fall 2021, all states should be transitioned over to the cloud-based platform and able to submit over 1 million records with their TBQ File exchange.</p> <p>Note: Although file processing is much quicker on the cloud, hard limits do exist within the transmission tools and it still requires time, which must be shared amongst all the states and territories. Please be cognizant of others when submitting files with more than 1 million transactions. CMS strongly encourages states to notify the CMS resource mailbox CMSEDBFile@cms.hhs.gov at least 72 hours prior to sending a file containing their entire population.</p>
12	What is the data match criteria for the TBQ File?	<p>There are several different data elements that can be matched on a beneficiary. For more information on the TBQ Request and Response File layout, fields, and match criteria, see the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug State User Guide.</p>
13	On the TBQ Request File, what are the “Family ID” and “MPI” fields?	<p>Family ID and Medicare Provider Inventory (MPI) are outdated fields no longer used in the TBQ process. The TBQ process does not require nor evaluate any values it receives in these fields. The state is free to use these fields as they wish. The system does not evaluate any entries the state makes in these fields but does return whatever the state has entered in the original request record included in the response file. Most states use these fields for beneficiary identification purposes. For more information on the TBQ layout, see the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug State User Guide.</p>
14	Will the TBQ Response File have the “Address Change Date”?	<p>Yes, “Mailing Address Change Date” and “Residential Address Change Date” are both included in the TBQ Response File. For more information on the TBQ layout, see the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug State User Guide.</p>
15	Considering that the TBQ File is limited to only one file per day, is there an option for states that have two systems interfacing with the TBQ File?	<p>Yes, there is an option to add another identifier to the file name to make a distinction between the two state systems. The CMS electronic file transfer (EFT) team can set up a new file name. Please contact SDRC at SDRC@EconometricalInc.com or by phone at (877) 657-9889 for assistance.</p>
16	Is there a field in the TBQ Request File to populate a state Medicaid agency identifier that can be returned back to the state in the TBQ Response File?	<p>Positions 4–83 of the TBQ Request File Detail Records are returned on the TBQ Response File Detail Records in the same positions. Within those positions are the following fields that the TBQ process neither requires, nor evaluates if any values are received: Family ID, Beneficiary Suffix, and MPI. States are free to use these fields as they wish. The system does not evaluate any entries the state makes in these fields but does return whatever the state has entered in the original request record in the response file. Most states use these fields for beneficiary identification purposes.</p>

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Other Questions		
17	What are the reasons or scenarios for a single SSN to be associated with multiple individuals? Is this created in error?	<p>There are some situations where multiple individuals are associated with a single SSN, like when a child is associated with their parent's SSN. In that case, the beneficiary ID code would be different and identify that it is a child.</p> <p>If multiple SSNs are associated with a single beneficiary, however, it is often a keying error. When CMS identifies these errors, CMS coordinates with the Social Security Administration to ensure the correct SSN is input. The correction then filters through the CMS data systems.</p>
18	Do these CMS modernization efforts affect the MMA files?	The CMS modernization efforts do not affect the MMA File Exchange or MMA File layout.
19	Who should I contact with questions regarding my state's data exchange agreement or electronic file transfer setup?	Please contact SDRC at SDRC@EconometricalInc.com or by phone at (877) 657-9889 for assistance.