Table of Contents

Section 1 - Overview ................................................................. 1
Section 2 - Supported Transactions ........................................... 2
Section 3 - Additional Transaction Control and Response Format Information .......... 4
  3.1 Transaction Routing Control Information .................................. 4
Section 4 - Telecommunication Information ..................................... 6
  4.1 Leased-Line Communications Protocol ...................................... 6
  4.2 Dial-Up Communications Protocol ........................................... 7
    4.2.1 Toll-Free Access ............................................................ 7
  4.3 Dial-Up VISA ........................................................................ 9
  4.4 Data Link Longitudinal Redundancy Check Calculation ..................... 12
Section 5 - Software Validation Process ......................................... 13
Section 6 - Reference Information ................................................ 15
Section 1 - Overview

This document contains the specifications for dial-up and leased line telecommunications within the Medi-Cal Point of Service (POS) network. Formats for the data transactions and responses supported within this network are detailed in the Medi-Cal transaction vendor companion guides, which can be found on the Medi-Cal Web site at www.medi-cal.ca.gov (click the “HIPAA Update” link, then the “ASC X12N Version 4010A1 Companion Guides and NCPDP Technical Specifications” link). Section 2 of this document, Supported Transactions, lists these transaction suites and their associated companion guides. The POS network supports the following online real-time transactions:

- Subscriber Eligibility Verification
- Share of Cost (SOC) / Spend Down Clearance
- Medi-Service Reservations
- Pharmacy Drug Claims
- Pharmacy Prior Authorizations
- Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) Actions
- Capture of X12N 837 Professional Services Claims
- Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program Gateway Actions
Section 2 - Supported Transactions

The format for transactions submitted through the Medi-Cal Point of Service (POS) network is based on nationally recognized standards, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The following table details the various Medi-Cal transactions that use these formats.

Table 1 – Supported Medi-Cal Transactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction</th>
<th>Standard Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHDP Gateway</td>
<td>ANSI X12.834, 271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Inquiry/Response</td>
<td>ANSI X12.270/271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family PACT</td>
<td>ANSI X12.834, 864, 271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Service Reservation Request/Response</td>
<td>ANSI X12.270/271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medi-Service Reservation Reversal/Response</td>
<td>ANSI X12.270/271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Cost Clearance Request/Response</td>
<td>ANSI X12.270/271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Cost Clearance Reversal/Response</td>
<td>ANSI X12.270/271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Claim - Request/Response</td>
<td>NCPDP V5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Claim - Reversal/Response</td>
<td>NCPDP V5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Prior Authorization Request Only (P4) – Request/Response</td>
<td>NCPDP V5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Prior Authorization Inquiry (P3) – Request/Response</td>
<td>NCPDP V5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Prior Authorization Reversal (P2) – Request/Response</td>
<td>NCPDP V5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Suite Transactions</td>
<td>ANSI X12.864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>837 Professional Services Claim</td>
<td>ANSI X12.837, 277, 271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the specific details of these transactions, refer to the documents listed below. For information about the standards and various data values, refer to the appropriate standards documentation, which is available through the standards organizations. Section 6 of this document, *Reference Information*, contains the standards organizations’ Web site addresses.

Table 2 – Medi-Cal Transactions Companion Guides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction</th>
<th>Document Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHDP Gateway</td>
<td>Document not yet published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility, Medi-Service Reservation, Share of Cost</td>
<td>270/271 Version 4010A1 test cases soon to be published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearance (Spend Down)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family PACT</td>
<td>Document not yet published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Medi-Cal POS NCPDP Pharmacy Transaction Specifications Third Party Vendors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Dial-Up and Leased-Line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Suite Transactions</td>
<td>Document not yet published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>837 Professional Services Claim</td>
<td>Document not yet published</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These publications are or will be available on the Medi-Cal Web site at www.medi-cal.ca.gov. Click the “HIPAA Update” link, then the “ASC X12N Version 4010A1 Companion Guides and NCPDP Technical Specifications” link.
Section 3 - Additional Transaction Control and Response Format Information

3.1 Transaction Routing Control Information

Medi-Cal has been issued an Issuer Identification Number (IIN) by the American National Standards Institute/International Standards Organization (ANSI/ISO). This number assists in routing transactions through Third Party Communication Service (TPCS) networks to the Medi-Cal processing system. The Medi-Cal IIN is **610442** and should be used in all transactions using either the ANSI or National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) formats. Refer to the appropriate Medi-Cal transaction vendor companion guide for the fields used to contain the Medi-Cal IIN.

The dial-up and leased-line Medi-Cal Point of Service (POS) network uses transaction routing code information in every inbound transaction. This routing code is used within the Remote Submitter Routing Identifier (RSRI) position for pharmacy transactions and the GS03 - Application Receiver's Code for all ANSI X12 transactions. Details about the RSRI routing code are provided in the *Medi-Cal POS NCPDP Pharmacy Transaction Specifications Third Party Vendors (Dial-Up and Leased-Line)* companion guide. The GS03 field format is alphanumeric and 15 bytes in length.

Table 3 - GS03 - Application Receiver's Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medi-Cal IIN</th>
<th>Processor Code</th>
<th>Routing Code</th>
<th>Filler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>610442</td>
<td>(Varies)</td>
<td>(Varies)</td>
<td>(Reserved for future use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Bytes</td>
<td>3 Bytes</td>
<td>3 Bytes</td>
<td>3 Bytes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This routing code information facilitates message routing within the Medi-Cal POS network and transaction processing systems to flexibly support various vendor-processing scenarios. The GS03 field format and values are as follows:

- The Medi-Cal IIN field must contain the value **610442**.
- The Processor Code field value depends on which Medi-Cal processor receives the claims. This field should be coded with the value **EDS**.
- The Routing Code field depends on which system receives the transaction. The following table lists allowable defined values.
### Table 4 – Processor and Routing Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processor Code (xxx)</th>
<th>Routing Code (yyy)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDS</td>
<td>Spaces</td>
<td>EDS - Production CICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS</td>
<td>Zeros</td>
<td>HHSDC* - Special System Test CICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>EDS - Vendor Software Validation CICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>EDS - Production CICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>EDS - Infrastructure Update Test System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Health and Human Services Data Center (HHSDC)

The HHSDC and EDS network infrastructure are designed to physically isolate data traffic from the test and production systems. Leased-line connections need to have a separate logical connection to the test system(s) at HHSDC. This connection can be either Physical Unit (PU) or Logical Unit (LU). Dial-up systems use different telephone numbers to access the test and production systems.
Section 4 - Telecommunication Information

4.1 Leased-Line Communications Protocol
All leased-line connections must terminate at the Health and Human Services Data Center (HHSDC). The IBM 3270 Synchronous Data Link Control (SDLC) protocol is currently supported. This protocol is IBM's version of the International Standards Organization (ISO) High-Level Data Link Control (HDLC) standard. The IBM SDLC protocol was selected because it is widely available in a number of hardware and software products from a number of vendors. A variety of leased line speeds may be supported at the HHSDC.

The Intersystem Communication (ISC) connection between the user site and the HHSDC through a Customer Information Control System (CICS) to CICS LU Type 6.2 (APPC) session is supported. For technical information concerning ISC connections, refer to the following IBM publications:

- **CICS Intercommunication Guide** (SC34-6005) – Explanations about defining CICS ISC links
- **CICS System Definition Guide** (SC34-5988) – Guidance about implementing ISC in a CICS system


Requests and inquiries regarding the cost of implementing leased lines, line speeds and connection procedures will be handled on a case-by-case basis. For reference information, consult section 6 of this document, *Reference Information.*
The Medi-Cal POS network currently supports the following two interfaces to leased line service providers:

1. Logical Unit 2 (LU 2). This interface uses the Systems Network Architecture (SNA) 3270 protocol to exchange data streams with third party systems. The leased line provider must preface the transaction as follows:

   1 2 3 4 5 6 7

   POSL

   Where POSL is uppercase EBCDIC characters preceded by three spaces. The LU 2 response will be EBCDIC coding preceded by two spaces.

2. CICS to CICS ISC may be used by service providers whose applications are operating under the IBM CICS product. The leased-line provider will use a “POSL” transaction to communicate with the Point of Service (POS) application.

4.2 Dial-Up Communications Protocol

The dial-up network supports only the asynchronous VISA protocol in a single transaction/response mode. This protocol is described below. The dial-up network is available through the provider’s public telephone service, which connects to the Medi-Cal POS network using toll-free services. To receive the telephone numbers for dial-up access, software developers must undergo a software validation process. Separate numbers will be provided for a test system and a production system. Section 5 of this document, Software Validation Process, further describes the software validation process.

4.2.1 Toll-Free Access

Providers can access the POS network using a primary access telephone number and a secondary access telephone number. Do the following to access the network:

1. Call the primary number.
2. If a connection is not made on the first call, hang up and redial the primary number.
3. If a connection is not made to the primary number, hang up and dial the secondary number.
4. If a connection is not made on the first call to the secondary number, hang up and redial the secondary number.
5. If no connection is made on the second call to the secondary number, hang up. The submission is unsuccessful and may be retried.
Table 5 - Data Flows

The table below lists the data flows once the telephone call is connected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dial-Up Equipment</th>
<th>POS Network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sends ENQ to dial-up port. This repeats up to four more times. ENQ = x’05’.</td>
<td>Sends ENQ to dial-up port. This repeats up to four more times. ENQ = x’05’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sends STX REQUEST ETX LRC to POS network. STX = x’02’, ETX = x’03’.</td>
<td>Sends STX REQUEST ETX LRC to POS network. STX = x’02’, ETX = x’03’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sends ACK to dial-up port. ACK = x’06’ / NAK = x’15’. (CA-MMIS host will process the transaction.)</td>
<td>Sends ACK to dial-up port. ACK = x’06’ / NAK = x’15’. (CA-MMIS host will process the transaction.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sends STX RESPONSE ETX LRC to dial-up port.</td>
<td>Sends STX RESPONSE ETX LRC to dial-up port.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sends ACK to POS network.</td>
<td>Sends EOT to dial-up port. EOT = x’04’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A session is defined as a single transaction sent to the POS network for processing and a single response sent back to the dial-up port. The call is then disconnected. A second transaction would require that the dial-up equipment initiate a second telephone call to the POS network.
4.3 Dial-Up VISA

This diagram illustrates the dial-up VISA I protocol used to communicate with the EDS Medi-Cal Host through the NetKit Solutions’ “Nevada” network controller.
The following is an example of a session connection showing the first part of an ANSI X12 transaction. A “t” indicates a transfer from the network towards the dial-up equipment. An “r” indicates a transfer received by the network from the dial-up equipment.

:20:02.706 POS120 t 05 [This is ENQ being sent from the network]
:20:03.474 POS120 r 82 [This is the character “STX”]
:20:03.478 POS120 r C9 [This is the character “I”]
:20:03.483 POS120 r 53 [This is the character “S”]
:20:03.488 POS120 r 41 [This is the character “A”]
:20:03.491 POS120 r AA [This is the character “*”]
:20:03.498 POS120 r 30 [This is the character “zero”]
:20:03.504 POS120 r 30 [This is the character “zero”]
:20:03.508 POS120 r AA [This is the character “*”]
:20:03.514 POS120 r A0
:20:03.554 POS120 r A0
:20:03.558 POS120 r AA

... ...

... ...

... ...

:20:04.860 POS120 r B1
:20:04.863 POS120 r AA
:20:04.868 POS120 r 30
:20:04.871 POS120 r 30
:20:04.878 POS120 r 30
:20:04.882 POS120 r 30
:20:04.884 POS120 r 30
:20:04.888 POS120 r 30
:20:04.893 POS120 r 30
:20:04.897 POS120 r 30
:20:04.901 POS120 r B1
:20:04.904 POS120 r 8D
:20:04.910 POS120 r 03
:20:04.913 POS120 r 14
Table 6 - Communication Session Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frame size</td>
<td>4096 bytes</td>
<td>This field defines the maximum frame size that may be transmitted between the network equipment and the dial-up equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFTRSPTO</td>
<td>10 seconds</td>
<td>Specifies how long the modem port concentrator (Nevada) will wait for the host to respond to a request. If the modem port concentrator has not received a response back from the host when the timer expires, it clears its data tables of information for this call, effectively preventing a response from returning to the dial-up equipment. The dial-up end should clear the call if a response is not received back within 10 seconds of the first ENQ character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mode      | 8N1      | Data bits = 8  
Parity = N (None)  
Stop bits = 1  
8th bit ignored |
| NRETRY    | 5        | Defines how many times the modem port concentrator (Nevada) will retransmit a command to which the dial-up equipment does not respond. The modem port concentrator (Nevada) waits the length of time set by the RETRYTIM parameter after each attempt. |
| RETRYTIM  | 40 seconds | Defines the retry interval on protocol exchanges used to establish the call. Defines how long the modem port concentrator (Nevada) waits for a response from the dial-up equipment. The modem port concentrator repeats its attempts to establish the call up to the NRETRY limit, each time waiting the RETRYTIM interval. |

Medi-Cal POS network hardware is capable of supporting either 1,200 or 2,400 bits per second (bps) asynchronous dial-up. The network operates in a half-duplex mode and there is no logon required for dial-up access. Security is controlled through host field level validation within the transaction data stream.
Table 7 - VISA-1 Data Link Control Characters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Binary</th>
<th>Hex</th>
<th>Octal</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STX</td>
<td>0000010</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>Start-of-text. Precedes a block of text characters. “Text” is that portion of a message treated as an entity to be transmitted to the destination without change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETX</td>
<td>0000011</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>End-of-text. Used to indicate the end of a block of characters started with an STX. The ETX requires a reply (ACK or NAK) indicating the receiving station’s status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOT</td>
<td>0000100</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>End-of-transmission. Used to end an information exchange and signal to disconnect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENQ</td>
<td>0000101</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>Enquiry. An invitation to transmit a message or retransmit the last item. ENQ also is used to bid for the line when using a point-to-point line connection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACK</td>
<td>0000110</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>Affirmative acknowledgement. Follows the correct reception of a message or command.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAK</td>
<td>0010101</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Negative acknowledgement. Indicates that the message just received is in error and the receiver is ready to accept a retransmission. NAK is also the “not ready” reply to a line bid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 Data Link Longitudinal Redundancy Check Calculation

A Longitudinal Redundancy Check (LRC) is required. The LRC character follows each ETX character for each message exchanged. The LRC is comprised of seven data bits and one even parity bit. The seven data bits are generated by the byte wide exclusive OR (modulo 2 summation) of the seven data bits for all message characters, excluding the first STX and including the ETX character. An even parity bit is then generated for the result. If a mismatch is detected between the LRC and the contents of the received message, the POS network hardware responds with an NAK. Communicating systems are encouraged to perform a similar validity check on messages received from the POS network.

**WARNING:** The LRC generation process will generate all combinations of character codes; therefore, NAK, ACK, ETX, ETB, EOT, STX and others will be generated as valid LRC characters.

```
+---------+--------+---------+-------|
| STX     | MESSAGE| ETX     | LRC   |
| <======  |        | ======> |      |
```

*Notice the LRC excludes the first STX and includes the ETX character.*
Section 5 - Software Validation Process

To connect to the Medi-Cal Point of Service (POS) network, providers and software developers must perform the following software validation process.

1. Contact the POS Help Desk.

To reach the POS Help Desk, call the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555 and select the option for POS/Internet inquiries. The POS Help Desk will assign a unique submitter ID. (If you currently submit claims through Computer Media Claims [CMC], you will not be assigned another submitter ID.) You will need to supply the POS help desk with a four-character version number that is combined with your submitter ID to become the PC/POS version number used in all transactions you submit through the POS network. This number is verified to ensure the software is validated and authorized to submit transactions. Notify the POS/Internet Help Desk of the new four-character version number prior to testing each new software release/upgrade.

2. Submit transactions.

When you are ready to test, submit transactions using the pre-defined test cases as described in the Test Cases section of the appropriate Medi-Cal transaction vendor companion guide (listed in Section 2). There is a series of tests for each available transaction suite. You may test for any (or all) transaction suites. Your software will only be approved for those transaction suites that have been successfully tested. You will be given a test provider number and Provider Identification Number (PIN) for all non-pharmacy transactions. The pharmacy tests will use the submitter ID and provider number. A test response will be returned for each test case transaction. If the specific key is not found on the test verification file, the following error message will be returned: “ERROR UNABLE TO DETERMINE TEST CASE”.

Version 1.0 (Draft)  December 2004
The POS/Internet Help Desk will receive a comparison report of all your software test transactions from the previous day. If all the fields pass the tests, the POS/Internet Help Desk will update its database allowing your software to be used within the POS network.

All reports and results will be mailed back to the test submitter after review by the POS help desk. If the comparison report data does not adequately describe the test transaction problem, please contact the POS/Internet Help Desk through the TSC at 1-800-541-5555. Select the option for POS/Internet inquiries.
Section 6 - Reference Information

For further information or questions about the standards, visit the following Web sites:

- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

- Data Interchange Standards Association, Inc. (DISA)

- Washington Publishing Company

- National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP)

- VISA Specifications

- Medi-Cal Companion Guides
  Obtain Medi-Cal transaction vendor companion guides at
  [http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov) (Click the “HIPAA Update” link, then the “ASC X12N Version 4010A1 Companion Guides and NCPDP Technical Specifications” link.)

- IBM CICS Publications
  Obtain IBM CICS publications at

For additional information or answers to questions about this document or leased line connections, contact EDS at the following address:

EDS
ATTN: POS/Internet Help Desk
3215 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6017

To reach the Medi-Cal POS/Internet Help Desk, call the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555 and select the option for POS/Internet inquiries.