



How to Test Electronic Health Care Transactions for HIPAA Compliance

Overview

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) National Standards Group (NSG), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), helps ensure HIPAA covered entities are complying with adopted standards for the electronic exchange of information to carry out financial or administrative activities. This electronic exchange of health care data is also referred to as a health care transaction.

Free Web-Based Tool to Test Transactions

CMS's National Standards Group operates the Administrative Simplification Enforcement and Testing Tool (ASETT)—a free web-based application that allows users to test their own electronic health care transactions and their trading partners' transactions for compliance with the Accredited Standards Committee X12 or the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) implementation guides adopted as transaction standards under HIPAA. After uploading a file to the testing tool within ASETT, you will receive a report that identifies any areas within the transaction file that do not comply with the applicable X12 or NCPDP implementation guide.

To test a transaction, you must first complete registration for the ASETT tool. **Need help creating an account? Review our ASETT User Manual for a step-by-step guide.**

Need Additional Help?

Contact the ASETT Helpdesk (703) 951-6810
ASETTHelpdesk@cms.hhs.gov
Questions? Check out our ASETT FAQs.

How to Test Transactions in ASETT

- 1 Click the "Register" link to create a new user account.**
All registration steps must be completed prior to accessing the Transaction Testing Tool.
- 2 Select the "Test HIPAA Transaction" option**
The user must have:
 - Registered for access to CMS (via IDM)
 - Cleared identity proofing
 - Requested access to ASETT
- 3 Enroll in the Testing Tool (OTCS)**
- 4 Follow the system prompts**
- 5 View or print the results**

Helpful Tip

ASETT is commonly used to file complaints about alleged violations of HIPAA standards, but users are not required to file a complaint when testing a transaction. Additionally, a report identifying no errors does not certify a covered entity's compliance with all applicable HIPAA provisions.