



CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: March 18, 2019

FROM: Chris Traylor, Deputy Administrator and Director,
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services

SUBJECT: T-MSIS State Compliance

CMS recognizes and appreciates states' ongoing commitment to improving their T-MSIS data. Access to high-quality, timely data is essential for ensuring robust monitoring and oversight of the Medicaid and CHIP programs. Over the last 5 years, together CMS and states have produced the T-MSIS dataset and, for the last two years, have been working collaboratively to improve the quality of the data. CMS will begin to share and use T-MSIS data publicly in 2019.

On August 10, 2018, CMS issued a State Health Official (SHO) Letter 18-008, outlining T-MSIS data reporting requirements for state Medicaid and CHIP programs.¹ This informational bulletin further discusses T-MSIS data quality requirements and timelines associated with CMS's review of compliance with these requirements. The letter also highlights resources available to states in meeting them. As conveyed in SHO Letter 18-008, states are expected to continue to improve the quality of their T-MSIS data and to ensure changes to state systems or operations will not degrade T-MSIS data submission quality, completeness, and/or timeliness.

T-MSIS Data Quality Compliance

To meet the requirements described in the T-MSIS SHO letter, states must:

1. Maintain monthly production submissions of T-MSIS files; e.g., submit all May 2019 data to CMS by June 30, 2019.
2. Resolve data issues associated with the 12 Top Priority Items (TPIs), as discussed in SHO Letter 18-008.² CMS has identified its next set of eleven priority data quality items, which are being shared with states through routine technical assistance processes, with the expectation to resolve the new TPIs after resolving the first twelve.

¹ The August 10, 2018 T-MSIS State Health Official letter can be found on Medicaid.gov <https://www.medicare.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/downloads/SHO18008.pdf>.

² For more detail on the top 12 Priority Issues, see the T-MSIS coding blog, *The Top 12 Priority Issues from T-MSIS Coding Blog*, <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/data-and-systems/macbis/tmsis/tmsis-blog/?entry=45422>.

3. Resolve key missing data elements critical for file linking and data use. We will work individually with each state in the identification, prioritization and resolution of key missing data elements relevant to that state.
4. Continue to resolve other data quality issues identified in the T-MSIS operations dashboard, data quality database, and through ongoing review and use of T-MSIS data as part of states' regular T-MSIS data submissions.

CMS has been, and will continue to be, a committed partner with all states in support of their good-faith efforts to meet and maintain compliance with the T-MSIS requirements. However, states should be aware CMS may reduce enhanced Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for operational costs of systems unable to produce timely, accurate, and complete T-MSIS data. Per 42 C.F.R. § 433.120, CMS may reduce FFP for expenditures for systems with non-compliant functionality.

T-MSIS Data Quality SHO Timeline

Date	Action
April 2019	All State Medicaid Directors will receive an individual email describing their state's current compliance status with respect to the above requirements.
May 31, 2019	Deadline for states to submit improved TMSIS data for inclusion in the first T-MSIS public file release.
September 2019	State Medicaid Directors of states with significant data quality issues will receive a letter identifying specific issues to address.
November 2019	<p>State Medicaid Directors of states with remaining data quality issues will be asked to submit a corrective action plan.</p> <p>CMS will include information regarding T-MSIS data quality in the Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard release.</p>

Resources available to assist states with T-MSIS Data Quality

Individual State Technical Assistance - Over the last year, CMS has been working with each state to improve the quality and completeness of its T-MSIS submissions and will continue to do so throughout 2019. CMS state liaisons are assigned for each state to assist in T-MSIS communication, coordination, planning, and oversight.

T-MSIS Data Quality Tools - CMS has provided states with tools and resources including the T-MSIS operations dashboard and a data quality database for identifying and resolving data quality issues. In support of state data quality efforts, CMS will continue to improve state tools and resources for states, highlight top priority data issues, and issue executive level summaries of state data and usability features to improve states' ability to identify and resolve these issues. Working with states individually, CMS has been sharing each state's individual progress in

resolving the current 12 Top Priority Issues and will continue providing each state with one-on-one technical assistance.

Enhanced Funding for Information Technology – States may request 90/10 enhanced system funding through the Advanced Planning Document process to assist in funding necessary systems enhancements to comply with data quality requirements.

Any questions may be sent to Julie Boughn, Data and Systems Group Director, julie.boughn1@cms.hhs.gov, or Barbara Richards, Director of the Division of Business and Data Analysis, barbara.richards@cms.hhs.gov.