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HIPAA Version 5010 Compliance 90-Day Discretionary Enforcement Period Begins in January

Just before Thanksgiving, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ([CMS](#)) [announced](#) that January 1, 2012 remains the mandatory date for most covered entities to comply with HIPAA Version 5010, NCPDP D.0 and NCPDP 3.0 [standards](#). However, there will be a 90-day discretionary enforcement period through March 31, during which CMS's Office of E-Health Standards and Services (OESS) will not begin enforcement actions in response to complaints against covered entities for alleged non-compliance. OESS is granting this window because it has found that needed compliance tests and software upgrades are not yet at the stage where most covered entities and their trading partners would definitely be compliant on January 1, 2012.

In New York, Medicaid will continue to accept claims from HIPAA Version 4010 during the 90-day window. Nonetheless, both OESS and New York's Medicaid program are still urging covered entities to quickly complete the process of becoming Version 5010-compliant. Further, OESS may at any time require covered entities to show that if they have not already become compliant, they are working towards doing so.

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