



## Review of Transaction Size Limitations

Some of the ASC X12N Implementation Guides contain recommendations relative to maximum file sizes per transaction type. The Collaborative supports these recommendations until either ASC X12N or DHHS publishes further file size limitations. Please note:

- Those transactions which can be exchanged in a near “real time” or fast batch mode have a recommended limitation to one inquiry per transaction. This affects the ASC X12N 270/271 Eligibility Inquiry and Response and the ASC X12N 276/277 Claim Status Request and Response.
- ASC X12N allows for trading partners to agree to larger transaction sizes than the recommended limitations. However, you should consider the capabilities or allowed capacity of any third party involved in the transmission or receipt of such a transaction. All parties involved in the exchange of the transactions must agree to accommodate any transactions larger than the recommended limits set by ASC X12N.

Below is the specific language contained in the various transaction implementation guides that denotes ASC X12N recommended transaction size limitations.

### Limitations to the Size of a Claim/Encounter (837) Transaction

- “Receiving trading partners may have system limitations regarding the size of the transmission they can receive. Some submitters may have the capability and the desire to transmit enormous 837 transactions with thousands of claims contained in them. The developers of this implementation guide recommend that trading partners limit the size of the transaction (ST-SE envelope) to a maximum of 5000 CLM segments. There is no recommended limit to the number of ST-SE transactions within a GS-GE or ISA-IEA. Willing trading partners can agree to set limits higher.” *National Electronic Data Interchange Transaction Set Implementation Guide – Health Care Claim: Professional – 837 ASC X12N 837 (004010X098) pg. 44*
- “Receiving trading partners may have system limitations regarding the size of the transmission they can receive. The developers of this implementation guide recommend that trading partners limit the size of the transaction (ST-SE envelope) to a maximum of 5000 CLM segments. While the implementation guide sets no specific limit to the number of Billing/Pay-to Provider Hierarchical Level

loops; there is an implied maximum of 5000.” *National Electronic Data Interchange Transaction Set Implementation Guide – Health Care Claim: Dental – 837 ASC X12N 837 (004010X097) pg. 69*

- “Receiving trading partners may have system limitations regarding the size of the transmission they can receive. Some submitters may have the capability and the desire to transmit enormous 837 transactions with thousands of claims contained in them. The developers of this implementation guide recommend that trading partners limit the size of the transaction (ST-SE envelope) to a maximum of 5000 CLM segments. Willing trading partners can agree to set CLM limits higher. There is no recommended limit to the number of ST-SE transactions within a GS-GE or ISA-IEA.” *National Electronic Data Interchange Transaction Set Implementation Guide – Health Care Claim: Institutional – 837 ASC X12N 837 (004010X096) pg. 41*

### **Limitations to the Size of an Eligibility Inquiry and Response (270/271) Transaction**

The developers of this implementation guide recommend that trading partners limit the size of the transaction to one (1) inquiry for real time, or “fast batch” mode; and 99 inquiries per batch mode. Willing trading partners can agree to set limits higher. However, all participants involved in any transmission or receipt of such batch transactions must be in agreement with batches larger than 99, and have the capability to receive, route or transmit any such larger transactions.

- “Although it is not recommended, if the number of patients is to be greater than one for real time mode or greater than ninety-nine for batch mode, the trading partners (the Information Source, the Information Receiver and the switch the transaction is routed through, if there is one involved) must all agree to exceed the number of recommended patient requests and agree to a reasonable limit.” *National Electronic Data Interchange Transaction Set Implementation Guide – Health Care Eligibility Inquiry and Response – 270/271 ASC X12N 270/271 (004010X092) pg. 14*
- “If the transactions set is to be used in a batch mode (see section 1.3.2 of the IG for additional detail) it is required that the 270 transaction contain a maximum of ninety-nine patient requests. Each patient is defined as either, one subscriber loop if the member is the patient, or one subscriber loop and one dependent loop if the dependent is the patient.” *National Electronic Data Interchange Transaction Set Implementation Guide – Health Care Eligibility Inquiry and Response – 270/271 ASC X12N 270/271 (004010X092) pg. 66*

### **Further Considerations Regarding Transaction Size Limitations**

Some trading partners, at their own discretion, may reject part or all of a transaction set if one of the transactions contained in the file is determined to have compliance failures (e.g., invalid code set usage, invalid value or range within a defined element, etc.). Although there is no specific language in the federal regulations or within the published ASC X12N standard implementation guides, it is a common practice to reject back all contents within an ST to SE loop, if any component of that loop is deemed non-compliant. You should clarify with your trading partners how they intend to handle any such compliance failures that may occur. Limiting the number of claims or inquiries within a specific ST – SE loop can minimize the risk of rejection and correction time lag. We do not recommend, however, that you limit the number of claims or inquiries to one (1) per ST – SE loop as this creates substantial additional overhead within the transaction set and obviates the efficiency value of these EDI structures.