

Notice Regarding Registration Deadline

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have set September 30, 2009 as the target date for non Group Health Plan (NGHP) Responsible Reporting Entities (RREs) to register for Section 111 mandatory insurer reporting. This is an important deadline that will provide RREs and CMS sufficient time to test the exchange of data prior to the exchange of live data in April 2010. Testing cannot begin until January 2010, and CMS has explained that the three month window between September 30, 2009 and the commencement of testing in January is designed to provide RREs enough time to go through all the necessary steps that will allow for a smooth transition to testing in January 2010.

CMS representatives have been clear about two additional considerations. First, RREs will be able to register even after September 30th. Second, there is no monetary penalty for registering after September 30th. Nevertheless, the longer an RRE delays registration beyond September 30th, the less likely that the full quarter of testing will be achievable for the RRE. This could delay reporting. RREs are requested to register if they have a "reasonable expectation" of having claims to report within the following reporting quarter in order to allow a full quarter of testing. If an RRE anticipates having claims to report in the quarter beginning April 1, 2010, the RRE should make every effort to register by September 30th. The longer an RRE delays after that date, the more likely it will become that the RRE will be unable to test and report in time to avoid penalties.