



BREAKING NEWS

CMS delays HIPAA 5010 until March 31, 2012

You have three extra months to comply with HIPAA 5010 regulations, CMS announced in a November 17th news release.

You now have until March 31st, 2012 to test claims and prepare your practice to only send claims using the 5010 transaction standard.

CMS decided to push the enforcement date back 90 days due to many providers, payers and vendors saying they can't comply by January 1, 2012.

Important: You are still responsible for being compliant by January 1, 2012; however, HHS will not enforce compliance until March 31, 2012. Thus you can continue sending claims using the current 4010 standard until March 31. The catch: All entities covered under HIPAA could be asked to show some kind of proof that they took steps to meet than January 1st 5010 deadline, CMS says.

At this early stage, it's not clear what the proof has to look like. CMS says you need to show that a "good-faith effort" was made to meet the January 1st deadline. You would be asked to show your proof when a complaint is filed against you – and there's no specifics from CMS on who might file a complaint or why.