

## GENERAL EDIT REQUIREMENTS - OVERVIEW

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### 1.0. TMA EDITING SYSTEM

TMA relies upon the data received from the contractor to account for the expenditure of government funds and to develop statistical information. This information is used for the analysis of the TRICARE program, for reporting to Congress, and the Executive Branch, and for developing trends and budget projections. TMA processes health care data received from the contractor through the TMA editing system, to ensure the accuracy and integrity of its database. There are two basic types of edits in the TMA editing system:

#### 1.1. Validity Edits

1.1.1. Validity edits are generated when the data submitted for a data element is not one of the code values for that data element as defined in [Chapter 2, Section 2.3](#) through [2.10](#) or cannot be processed as submitted, or the data in the records is not compatible with respect to associated data on the TMA database. The data submitted on TED records must be consistent with expected values, and records must be compatible when compared to the TMA database. If these conditions are not met, the records cannot be processed by TMA.

1.1.2. Records with validity edit errors will be returned to the contractor with the same batch/voucher identifier and must be corrected and resubmitted using the same batch/voucher identifier.

#### 1.2. Relational Edits

1.2.1. Relational edits are generated when the values of two or more data elements are dependent on each other and the values are not compatible. Relational edits in the Header, Provider and Pricing Records will be rejected and returned to the contractor. Relational edits in the Institutional and Non-Institutional Records will be provisionally accepted and returned to the contractor for correction. See [Chapter 2, Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3](#) for information on the resubmission/correction of these records.

1.2.2. Records with relational edit errors will be returned to the contractor with the same batch/voucher identifier and must be corrected via the adjustment process and resubmitted with a different batch/voucher identifier.

#### 1.2.3. Financial Edits

Financial edits are relational edits that identifies potential improper payments and must be corrected as defined in the TRICARE Operations Manual, [Chapter 3, Section 2](#). The financial (voucher cost allocation) edits are coded with a "F" in the trailing position.

### 1.2.4. Adjustment/Cancellation Conditions

The adjustment/cancellation must be submitted on the same vehicle type (batch or voucher) as the original submission. When health care is charged to the wrong risk category (i.e., financially underwritten vs. non-financially underwritten) the original record must be cancelled **under the original risk category** and **submitted as a new record** under the correct risk category. See [Chapter 2, Section 1.1](#) for additional information.

## 2.0. TMA ERROR MESSAGES

TMA edits generate error messages if the required conditions are not met. The two major parts of an error message are the error code and the error message text. The error codes are structured to identify the data element in error by using the Element Locator Number (ELN) as the first four digits.

### 2.1. Error Code Structure

The error codes have the following structure:

#### 2.1.1. Four Characters

One (1) digit RECORD TYPE INDICATOR, three (3) digit Element Locator Number (ELN).

#### 2.1.2. Two Digits

Number of the Error Code for a given element (01 if only one error code exists for a given element, there may be gaps in the sequence for an element).

#### 2.1.3. One Character

F - for financial edits, R - for relational edits, and V - for validity edits.

#### 2.1.4. Occurrence Number Error

Identifies the occurrence position of the data in error.

**NOTE:** The error code on the Edit Error Report may have three additional digits which identify the unique number of the utilization/revenue occurrence within the record.

## 3.0. RELATIONAL ERROR CODES

For “relational” error codes, the ELN part of the error code represents an arbitrarily established leading data element in a relational edit.

## **4.0. RELATIONAL ERROR MESSAGES**

[Chapter 2, Section 4.1](#) through [8.1](#) contain a list of error messages sequenced by ELN. The top right part of each page identifies the type of record or records to which the edit applies. There are two parts to each edit - the validity edits and the relational edits.

### **4.1. Relational Edits**

The relational edits list all the data element names to which an element is related, listing the complete error code and defining the relationship. Where the relationship is part of a different ELN, the error code is shown for reference to be used in looking up the relationship. The information in this section and through [Chapter 2, Section 8.1](#) contain the pseudo code used by TMA to write the editing program modules. Additional edits or changes may be made by TMA to ensure that the data submitted is in compliance with the TRICARE Policy Manual and the TRICARE Operations Manual. Records retained by the TMA editing system, accompanied by error reports, are sent to the contractor for correction and resubmission.

### **4.2. Date Validity Edits**

All dates must be valid Gregorian or Julian dates.

## **5.0. NO GOVERNMENT COST EDIT REVISIONS**

TED edit revisions resulting from MCSC (or other contractor) inquiries or edit changes that relax or amend current edits will be implemented by the Government and contractors as they are identified and resolved. Notification of these changes to the contractors will be managed by the Claims Operations Office (COO). COO notification is an interim measure until the change is formally published in the TSM. Edit changes to resolve these issues shall be accomplished at no cost to the Government.

