

SSIS Update

Fiscal Advisory Committee, 2-11-09

Version 5.2b

This version adds *new and improved* Advanced Search capability for Payments, and new Advanced Search functionality for Claiming and Service Arrangements. Counties will be able to do more complex filtering and formatting to produce ad hoc reports with these searches. Tentative Release Date for 5.2b – March 2009

IFSpi Implementation

Throughout CY 2009, TriMin will be converting counties from the current IFS (Integrated Financial System) to IFSpi (Integrated Financial System platform independent).

This change to IFSpi county accounting system hardware and software does not mean changes to how the SSIS Vendor Import and Payment Interface processes work - the 2 systems will still use the intermediate tables defined in the:

Business Organization/County Accounting System Vendor Date Interchange specification document (link below)

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&Rendition=Primary&allowInterrupt=1&noSaveAs=1&dDocName=dhs_id_050932

and the SSIS Payment Request/Confirmation Interface specification (link below)

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&Rendition=Primary&allowInterrupt=1&noSaveAs=1&dDocName=dhs_id_055886

However, the IFSpi switch to platform independence with the capability for several different hardware and software configurations means that SSIS will no longer be able to provide the extensive testing and support for IFSpi that we provided in the past for IFS. Each system, SSIS and IFSpi, will program to the intermediate tables and each will test for correct use of those tables. This level of support is the same level currently provided to custom counties.

SSIS has worked with TriMin staff to develop a checklist for county staff and the TriMin installers to use as they convert a county from IFS to IFSpi. The checklist requires assistance from county SSIS workers, IFS users and county technical staff and ensures that all of the interfaces are working before the installers leave the county.

After the IFSpi upgrade, counties will need to check their SSIS interface logs and contact TriMin for questions or issues related to vendor or payment interfaces with IFSpi; TriMin will work with SSIS if the problem is related to the intermediate vendor or payment interface tables. Please continue to contact SSIS for questions or issues related to entering or editing the vendor or payment interface schedules in SSIS Admin.

Counties will be receiving more information on the installation and checklist process after it has been tested in the pilot counties, Carver and Otter Tail.

Northstar Care Legislative Proposal

This proposal combines three programs into a simplified single benefit for children that have been removed from their home. Effective 01-01-2011, it combines Child Foster Care, Relative Custody Assistance, and Adoption Assistance into one continuous, unified program of support for children (Table 1). The new program, called Northstar Care for Children, would collapse over 225 potential basic or difficulty of care rates into thirteen rates.

In the new program, there would be a basic monthly payment based on the child's age. All children would go through a single "universal" assessment process using a newly developed assessment tool to determine the child's need for care beyond basic, if any. Based on this simplified assessment process, each child would receive the basic payment only, or one of 10 levels of monthly supplemental payment. For children 12 or younger, this assessment process would also determine the caregiver's need for child care (up to \$240/month) to pursue work and/or education/training.

This proposal alters the amounts of supportive funds from the existing array of programs, resulting in some caregivers receiving more and some less, but all based on the same determination of need. Most of the rate increases would be focused on older children (who are typically more difficult to place) and moving children to permanency. Specifically, all children in RCA and nearly all children in AA would receive more benefit. A small group of children (estimated to be 500) in the current AA program might choose to remain with the legacy program, primarily because the child care allowance would not cover their full child care costs.

AUC – Administrative Uniformity Committee

Web site: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/index.html>

The Administrative Uniformity Committee is a broad-based group representing Minnesota health care public and private payers, hospitals, health care providers and state agencies.

The AUC has worked for over 15 years to streamline billing activities across Minnesota.

However, the AUC has recently adopted a singular focus, thanks to a [2007 Minnesota state law](#) that calls for standardized, electronic health care billing transactions ([Minnesota E3 Initiative](#)).

This legislation calls for the AUC to work with the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) to streamline three major components of the billing process:

1. Eligibility (implementation deadline 1/15/09)
2. Claims (implementation deadline 7/15/09)
3. Payment and remittance advice (implementation deadline 12/15/09)

The 2007 law was widely supported by the health care billing community, which felt that a single set of billing codes used through an electronic transaction would dramatically simplify the billing

Health Care is in the process of implementing AUC directives – 45 directives have currently been identified. 7 have been implemented, 8 are currently in development and the database expansion is near completion. Many of these changes do not affect counties or SSIS but some will. As SSIS receives more information, we will keep you updated.