

NCPDP F6

AR Medicaid Provider Newsletter

Overview of F6 Changes

On December 13th, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published final rule (CMS-0056-F), Administrative Simplification: Modifications of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Retail Pharmacy Standards; and Modification of the Medicaid Pharmacy Subrogation Standard. This rule mandates that the industry transition from Version D.0 to Version F6 by April 14, 2028.

The transition to version F6 has some key benefits including:

- **Support for High-Cost Therapies:** Expands financial fields to handle drug costs and claims exceeding \$999,999.99 (which older D.0 fields capped), accommodating modern million-dollar gene and specialty therapies.
- **Improvement of Coordination of Benefits (COB):** Enhances logic and data structures for patients with multiple benefit plans, including Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibility indicators and clearer third-party payer responses.
- **Expansion of Clinical and Safety Data:** Introduces hundreds of new and modified data fields to communicate clinical context, end-stage renal disease/hospice statuses, and stricter prescriber validation data sources.
- **Upgrades to Identifiers:** Expands the 6-digit BIN to an 8-digit Issuer Identification Number (IIN) to accommodate growing issuer demands.
- **Optimization of Real-Time Communication:** Streamlines real-time workflows for prior authorizations, eligibility verifications, formulary alternative sharing, and real-time cost estimates between pharmacies, prescribers, and payers.

This change impacts the transactions and data integrations noted below:

Transaction Code/Version	Transaction/File Layout
B1/B2/B3	Claim Billing/Reversal/Rebill
E1	Eligibility Verification
P1/P2/P3/P4	Prior Authorization
Version 15	Batch Claims
Version 53	Post Adjudication

Timeline for Changes

The industry transition period begins August 14, 2027. All transactions subject to the updated standard must use F6 by the regulatory compliance date of April 14, 2028. Arkansas Medicaid and Prime will work with pharmacies to perform F6 testing and plan to transition to the use of F6 during the NCPDP transition window of August 14, 2027- April 14, 2028. Pharmacies have until April 14, 2028 to submit all claims in F6. Claims submitted in both versions will be accepted during the transition period.

What Providers Can Expect in Preparation for This Change

- Proposed F6 transition date and testing timeline to be shared in Q1 2027
- Arkansas Medicaid and Prime will coordinate with pharmacies for testing and certification
- An updated Payer Specification will be provided 60 days ahead of the transition to version F6
- Prime will coordinate with Arkansas Medicaid to provide any additional training or materials regarding F6 changes to providers