

APPENDIX 1:

Federal Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) Process: Selection of Certified IDR Entity Data Elements

The Departments of the Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services (Departments) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) have issued interim final rules establishing a Federal independent dispute resolution process (Federal IDR process) that nonparticipating providers or facilities, nonparticipating providers of air ambulance services, and group health plans and health insurance issuers or Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) carriers in the group and individual market may use following the end of an unsuccessful open negotiation period to determine the out-of-network rate for certain services. More specifically, the Federal IDR process may be used to determine the out-of-network rate for certain emergency services, nonemergency items and services furnished by nonparticipating providers at participating health care facilities, and for air ambulance services furnished by nonparticipating providers of air ambulance services where an All-Payer Model Agreement or specified state law does not apply. Additionally, a party may not initiate the Federal IDR process if, with respect to an item or service, the party knows or reasonably should have known that the provider or facility provided notice and obtained consent from a participant, beneficiary, or enrollee to waive surprise billing protections consistent with PHS Act sections 2799B-1(a) and 2799B-2(a) and the implementing regulations at 45 CFR 149.410(b) and 149.420(c)-(i).

In the event the parties have exhausted the open negotiation period and one of the parties has initiated the Federal IDR process, the parties may jointly select a certified IDR entity no later than 3 business days after the Departments' receipt of the Notice of IDR Initiation. If the disputing party in receipt of the Notice of IDR Initiation fails to object within 3 business days of the date of initiation of the Federal IDR process, the preferred certified IDR entity identified in the Notice of IDR Initiation will be selected and will be treated as jointly agreed to by the parties, provided that the certified IDR entity does not have a conflict of interest. If the party in receipt of the Notice of IDR Initiation objects, that party must timely notify the initiating party of the objection, including an explanation of the reason for objecting, and propose an alternative certified IDR entity. The initiating party must then agree or object to the alternative certified IDR entity. In order to jointly select a certified IDR entity, the plan, issuer, or FEHB carrier and the nonparticipating provider, nonparticipating provider of air ambulance services, or nonparticipating emergency facility must jointly agree on a certified IDR entity not later than 3 business days after the date of initiation of the Federal IDR process. If both parties select a certified IDR entity and agree or fail to agree upon a certified IDR entity within the specified timeframe, the initiating party must notify the Departments by electronically submitting the notice of the certified IDR entity selection or failure to select (as applicable), no later than 1 business day after the end of the 3-business-day period (or, in other words, 4 business days after the date of initiation of the Federal IDR process). Notice of the certified IDR entity selection must be provided to the Departments through the Federal IDR portal.

Upon receipt of the notice, if the notice indicates that the parties have failed to select a certified IDR entity, the Departments will select a certified IDR entity through a random selection method.

The table below identifies data elements that an initiating party must provide in the notice.

This notice should include the name of the certified IDR entity, their certified IDR entity number, an attestation by both parties (or by the initiating party if the other party did not respond) that the selected certified IDR entity does not have a conflict of interest.

If the parties jointly fail to select a certified IDR entity, the initiating party must indicate that the parties have failed to select a certified IDR entity. In addition, in instances where the non-initiating party believes that the Federal IDR process is not applicable, the non-initiating party must notify the Departments through the Federal IDR portal within the same timeframe that the notice of selection (or failure to select) is required and provide information regarding the lack of applicability.

If the parties select a certified IDR entity:

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Legal certified IDR entity name	Certified IDR entity’s legal name as written on their business license
Certified IDR entity number	Certified IDR entity’s IDR entity number
Attestation	<p>Attestation that the selected certified IDR entity, to the best of the knowledge of the parties—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not a group health plan, health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, FEHB carrier, individual health insurance coverage or short-term, limited-duration insurance, a provider, a provider of air ambulance services, or a facility; • Is not an affiliate or a subsidiary of a group health plan, health insurance issuer, FEHB carrier, provider, provider of air ambulance services, or facility; • Is not an affiliate or subsidiary of a professional or trade association representing group health plans, health insurance issuers, FEHB carriers, providers, providers of air ambulance services, or facilities; • Does not have a material familial, financial, or professional relationship with a party to the payment determination being disputed, or with any officer, director, or management employee of the plan, issuer, or FEHB carrier; the plan administrator, plan fiduciaries, or plan or issuer employees; the health

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
	<p>care provider, the health care provider’s group or practice association; the provider of air ambulance services, the provider of air ambulance services’ group or practice association; or the facility that is a party to the dispute;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ensure that assignment of personnel to the dispute and decisions regarding hiring, compensation, termination, promotion, or other similar matters related to personnel assigned to the dispute are not made based upon the likelihood that the assigned personnel will support a particular party to the determination being disputed, except as required under the interim final rule; and • Will ensure that any personnel assigned to a determination do not have any conflicts of interests regarding any party to the dispute within the 1 year immediately preceding an assignment of dispute determination, similar to the requirements laid out in 18 U.S.C. 207(b).
Lack of applicability of Federal IDR process	Information regarding the lack of applicability of the Federal IDR process (if applicable).
Signature of initiating party	Signature, full name, and date from the initiating party.
Signature of non-initiating party	Signature, full name, and date from the non-initiating party (if party designated a certified IDR entity).

If the parties fail to select a certified IDR entity:

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Failure to select	Indication that the parties have failed to select a certified IDR entity.
Lack of applicability of Federal IDR process	Information regarding the lack of applicability of the Federal IDR process (if applicable).
Signature of initiating party	Signature, full name, and date from the initiating party.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Departments and OPM note that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB

control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this voluntary collection of information is estimated to be 1 hour and 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing general information about requesting assistance, gathering information, completing and reviewing the collection of information, and uploading attachments if applicable. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Regulations and Interpretations, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email ebsa.opr@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0169. Note: Please do not return the completed request for assistance to this address.