
General Batch Transmission File Formatting (Section 1.1)

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Business Flow (Section 1.1.1)

1. It is anticipated that this batch format will be used to communicate between a pharmacy and Medi-Cal, for the purposes of processing pharmacy claims. Intermediaries, such as a headquarters and/or a switch might be used for sending the file ultimately to Medi-Cal.
2. A pharmacy will generate the claims needing to be submitted. At some point, the pharmacy will submit the claims in a file using this batch format. The file will contain one detail data record for each pharmacy claim transmission to be processed.
3. The file is delivered ultimately to Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal verifies the integrity of the file. If the file fails the integrity testing at Medi-Cal, an error file is generated. The claim detail records will be ignored. Medi-Cal will build an error file containing a single NCPDP Error Transmission consisting of an Error Transmission Header Record and its associated Trailer Record containing error messages for the batch file submitted. If the file passes the integrity test, each claim (detail data record) is then processed. Medi-Cal will build a response file containing an NCPDP response for each detail data record received in the claim file from the pharmacy.
4. Batch response files will be available the next day on the Medi-Cal website at www.medi-cal.ca.gov. The submitter may then download and process the response batch file, either correcting errors or posting the response information to the submitter's files.

General File Layout (Section 1.1.2)

The batch file will consist of three sections: the header, the data, and the trailer. The batch header and trailer must be present in every NCPDP Batch Version 1.2 transmission.

Batch Transaction Header 1 per file

Transaction Detail Data (includes NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø Transaction Segments) includes up to 9,999,999,997 Transaction Detail Data Records per file

Batch Transaction Trailer 1 per file

Functional Flow (Section 1.1.3)

Medi-Cal will assign a Sender ID (Medi-Cal Submitter ID) to be used in the Batch Transaction Header. When the pharmacy is submitting a batch file, the Batch Transaction Header should contain the Sender ID assigned by Medi-Cal. When a response or error file is returned to the pharmacy by Medi-Cal, the Sender ID reflects the same ID number.

The Receiver ID will be the BIN Number for Medi-Cal: 610442. The Receiver ID was added to the NCPDP Batch Version 1.2 to allow the transfer of the entire batch file from the headquarters or switch to the processor. In this case, the Receiver ID contains the value expected by the processor, Medi-Cal. The headquarters or switch transfers the entire file to Medi-Cal.

For a pharmacy submitting claims, the batch file should contain one Batch Transaction Header, a Batch Transaction Detail Data Record for every claim and one Batch Transaction Trailer. Each Batch Transaction Detail Data Record contains an NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø data record. It will consist of mandatory and possibly optional segments that may include a maximum of four claim detail transactions for the same provider, prescriber and patient.

The Transaction Reference Number field within each Batch Transaction Detail Data Record is assigned by the pharmacy to uniquely identify each claim (NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø transmission) within the file. The numbering scheme is at the pharmacy's discretion; the number only needs to be unique within the file. As Medi-Cal builds the Response file, the original Transaction Reference Number from each claim is attached to its associated Batch Standard Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Detail Data Record response to allow the pharmacy to match the response with the claim originally submitted.

When Medi-Cal posts a Response file on the Internet, the file will contain one Batch Transaction Header, a Batch Transaction Detail Data Response Record for every claim and one Batch Transaction Trailer. Each Batch Transaction Detail Data Response Record will contain a valid formatted NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø response with the Transaction Reference Number from the original request

If Medi-Cal finds an error in the integrity of the batch file, the response file will contain one Batch Transaction Header and one Batch Transaction Trailer with the appropriate error(s) noted in the message field. No Transaction Detail Data Records will be processed and therefore no NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø responses will be returned for these data records.

Headquarters or Switch Involvement (Section 1.1.4)

A pharmacy headquarters may choose to submit a batch of claims on behalf of several pharmacies. This batch format supports this ability. The pharmacy headquarters would submit the file with the Sender ID for the headquarters, but the Batch Transaction Detail Data Records could be for any pharmacy. Since the data records contain the entire NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø claim, the pharmacy number appears uniquely in each claim.

This format supports the ability to send claims to a switch or central site for delivery of claims to different processors. Each Batch Transaction Detail Data Record could be sent to a different processor on behalf of one or many pharmacies. As the switch processes each Transaction Detail Data Record, the BIN and Processor Control Number of the claim would uniquely identify to which processor the claim should be forwarded.

General File Information (Section 1.1.5)

The maximum number of records in a file is 9,999,999,999 including one Batch Transaction Header and one Batch Transaction Trailer. The Start of Text and End of Text fields are used to mark the beginning and ending of each record within the file. The Start of Text and End of Text fields are also used to delimit the records within the file, as variable length Batch Detail Data Records may be sent in the file.

Batch Record Definitions (Section 1.1.6)

Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Header Record Definition (only one NCPDP Batch Standard Version 1.2 Transaction Header Record per batch transmission file)

Field	Field Name	Type	Length	Start	End	Value
880-K4	Text Indicator	A/N	1	1	1	Start of Text (STX) = X'02'
701	Segment Identifier	A/N	2	2	3	00 = File Header
880-K6	Transmission Type	A/N	1	4	4	T = Transaction R = Response E = Error Transmission Type "T" is required when the pharmacy is submitting a batch. Transmission Type "E" is returned when the entire batch has been rejected by Medi-Cal. Transmission Type "R" is returned to the pharmacy to denote the file contains responses to claims.
880-K1	Sender ID	A/N	24	5	28	Sender ID – contains the 3 byte Submitter ID value assigned by Medi-Cal

Field	Field Name	Type	Length	Start	End	Value
806-5C	Batch Number	N	7	29	35	Batch Number is assigned by the sender and must match the Transaction Trailer Batch Number field. It must be returned in Response or Error file from Medi-Cal. The Batch Number on the Response file must be the same Batch Number from the Request file originally sent from the pharmacy. This will tie back the Request batch file to the Response batch file.
880-K2	Creation Date	N	8	36	43	Format = CCYYMMDD
880-K3	Creation Time	N	4	44	47	Format = HHMM
702	File Type	A/N	1	48	48	P = Production T = Test
102-A2	Version/Release Number	A/N	2	49	50	The Version/Release Number refers to the Version/Release of the NCPDP Batch Standard – 1.2.
880-K7	Receiver ID	A/N	24	51	74	Receiver ID is the Medi-Cal BIN Number - 610442
880-K4	Text Indicator	A/N	1	75	75	End of Text (ETX) = X'03'

Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Detail Data Record Definition

Field	Field Name	Type	Length	Start	End	Value
880-K4	Text Indicator	A/N	1	1	1	Start of Text (STX) = X'02'
701	Segment Identifier	A/N	2	2	3	G1=Detail Data Record
880-K5	Transaction Reference Number	A/N	10	4	13	To be determined by Sender. The Transaction Reference Number is assigned by the Pharmacy. When Medi-Cal receives the file and begins processing the claims, the Transaction Reference Number must be returned with the detail level response. The Transaction Reference Number is used to explicitly tie a response back to the original claim
	NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø Data Record		Varies	14	Varies	NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø Transmission. The data record to be transmitted in this batch standard will follow the NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.Ø or any higher Version/Release of the Telecommunication Standard implemented by Medi-Cal.
880-K4	Text Indicator	A/N	1	Varies	Varies	End of Text (ETX) = X'03'

Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Trailer Definition (only one NCPDP Batch Standard Version 1.2 Transaction Trailer Record per batch transmission file)

Field	Field Name	Type	Length	Start	End	Value
880-K4	Text Indicator	A/N	1	1	1	Start of Text (STX) = X'02'
701	Segment Identifier	A/N	2	2	3	99 = File Trailer
806-5C	Batch Number	N	7	4	10	Assigned by sender. Batch number must match the Batch number field in the header record.
751	Record Count	N	10	11	20	Count of NCPDP Batch Standard Version 1.2 Batch Records (one Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Header, one to many Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Detail Data Records, and one Version 1.2 Batch Transaction Trailer) The record count field includes the total number of NCPDP Batch Standard Version 1.2 records in the batch, including the header and trailer records. The maximum number of records in a file is 9,999,999,999 including one Transaction Header and one Transaction Trailer
504-F4	Message	A/N	35	21	55	The message field can be used to further explain the reasons why the entire batch is in error, information about testing or any other information that needs to be sent regarding the batch. This field should only contain informational data and should not contain required data.
880-K4	Text Indicator	A/N	1	56	56	End of Text (ETX) = X'03'

For examples of Batch Record Definitions, see the NCPDP Batch Standard Implementation Guide Version 1.2.

Legend

Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.