Dispute File Layout
Effective September 29, 2007

A claims dispute/error file contains a Header record, one or more Detail records and a Trailer record. This data is submitted in a flat file as specified below. The fields in these records are fixed length fields and are separated by a pipe (|) delimiter.

Table 1: Header Record

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Record ID	7 bytes - Alpha This identifies the type of record. It will always contain the word HEADER. This field is left justified.	1	7	HEADER Required	HEADER Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	8	8	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Trading Partner Name	40 bytes - ALPHA-NUMERIC Name of the Trading Partner	9	48	Trading partner name Required	Trading partner name Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	49	49	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Trading Partner Contact ID	9 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Invoice contact ID of the Trading Partner	50	58	Trading partner ID Required	Trading partner ID Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	59	59	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Transmit Date	10 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC MM-DD-CCYY Date the dispute / error file was transmitted	60	69	Current date Required	Current date Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	70	70	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Transmit Time	8 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC HH:MM:SS Time the dispute / error file was transmitted	71	78	Current time Required	Current time Required

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	79	79	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Trading Partner Dispute Reference ID	20 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC A dispute Reference ID assigned by a Trading Partner to track their disputes.	80	99	Optional	Optional
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	100	100	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Dispute File ID	9 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Dispute File Id assigned by Trading Partner. Must be unique for each file transmitted.	101	109	Required	Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	110	110	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Filler	402 bytes **For future use** – should be filled with spaces.	111	512	Required	Required

Total = 512 bytes

Table 2: Dispute / Error Detail Record

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Record ID	7 bytes - Alpha This identifies the type of record. It will always contain the word DETAIL. This field is left justified.	1	7	DETAIL	DETAIL
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	8	8	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
COBA ID	10 bytes – Numeric (5 byte IDs are prefixed with 5 zeros) This contains the COBA ID affiliated with the set of claims	9	18	Element NM109 from Loop 1000B Required	Element 301-C1 of the Insurance record. Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	19	19	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Claim Type	5 bytes – Alpha Describes the type of claim containing the error	20	24	PARTA for Institutional PARTB for Professional Required	NCPDP Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	25	25	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Trading Partner Claim File ID	9 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The File ID from the Trading Partners' 837/NCPDP file.	26	34	Element ISA13 from the ISA header segment. Required	Element 806-5C from the Batch Header Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	35	35	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Claim File Transmission Date	6 bytes – Numeric YYMMDD The date the file was transmitted from BCRC	36	41	Element ISA09 from the ISA header segment. Required	Element 806-5C from the Batch Header. Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	42	42	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
HICN/MBI	12 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The HICN or Medicare Beneficiary Identifier for the claim.	43	54	Element NM109 in the 2330A Loop Required	Element 332-CY in the Patient Segment Required

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	55	55	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Filler	19 bytes Should be filled with spaces	56	69		
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	70	70	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Loop ID / Record Type	6 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Loop ID (837) or Record Type (NCPDP) of the suspect record	71	76	Loop ID for the segment in question. Must be included for errors that occur at the trading partner's PreEditor / Translator	Record Type of the record in question. Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	77	77	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Segment ID	3 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Segment Name (837) of the segment in error.	78	80	Segment Name for the segment in question. Must be included for errors that occur at the trading partner's PreEditor / Translator	N/A
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	81	81	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Element ID	10 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Element Name (837), with sub- element ID of the erroneous element. (e.g. SVD03-2 = Sub- element 2 of SVD03)	82	91	Element name for the element in question. Must be included for errors that occur at the trading partner's PreEditor / Translator	N/A.

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	92	92	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Contractor Reference ID (CRI)	30 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The ID that is unique to the contractor's submitted file / transaction set.	93	122	Element BHT03 in the BHT segment. Required	Element 504-F4 in the Batch Trailer. Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	123	123	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Contractor Number	9 bytes - ALPHA-NUMERIC ID assigned by CMS to the contractor submitting the claim to COBA. If 5 bytes pad last 4 with spaces.	124	132	Element NM109 in the 1000A loop. Required	Element 340-7C of the Other COB record Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	133	133	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Transaction Set ID	9 bytes - ALPHA-NUMERIC Identifier of the Transaction assigned by CMS	134	142	Element ST02 in the ST segment. Required for errors that occur at the trading partner's PreEditor/Translator.	N/A
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	143	143	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
DB ebills Invoice #	10 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The Invoice number of the bill that covers the claims in dispute.	144	153	Invoice Number for dispute. Required when disputing invoiced claims.	Invoice Number for dispute. Required when disputing invoiced claims.
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	154	154	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
DB ebills Line Item Ref #	16 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The line item reference number of the disputed claims – from the ebills.	155	170	Reference number of the line on the billed invoice. Required when disputing invoiced claims.	Reference number of the line on the billed invoice. Required when disputing invoiced claims.
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	171	171	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Dispute or Error Reason Code	6 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The reason for the dispute or error. This will come from a list of standard error codes.	172	177	Code selected from the reason code list. Required – Use 009999 if other. See the Dispute reason code table	Code selected from the reason code list. Required – Use 009999 if other. See the Dispute reason code table
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	178	178	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Trading Partner Dispute Reference ID	20 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC A dispute Reference ID assigned by a Trading Partner to track their disputes.	179	198	Optional	Optional
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	199	199	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Dispute Resolution Code	15 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The dispute resolution code assigned by BCRC.	200	214	**Reserved for BCRC** Trading Partners leave this field blank.	**Reserved for BCRC** Trading Partners leave this field blank.
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	215	215	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Comments	200 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Dispute Reason / Free form comment	216	415	Text to clarify the reason for the dispute. Required if the dispute reason code is 009999. Otherwise, Optional	Text to clarify the reason for the dispute. Required if the dispute reason code is 009999. Otherwise, Optional

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	416	416	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Claim Number	23 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC The Claim number (ICN, DCN) for the claim. Left justified with trailing spaces.	417	439	Element REF02 in the 2330B loop when REF01 = F8. Required	N/A
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	440	440	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Filler	72 bytes For future and internal use – should be filled with spaces.	441	512		

Total = 512 bytes

Table 3: Trailer Record

Field Name	Size/Description	Start	End	Dispute 837 Source	Dispute NCPDP Source
Record ID	7 bytes - Alpha This identifies the type of record. It will always contain the word TRAILER.	1	7	TRAILER Required	TRAILER Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	8	8	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Trading Partner Name	40 bytes - ALPHA-NUMERIC Name of the Trading Partner	9	48	Trading partner name Required	Trading partner name Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	49	49	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Record Count	10 bytes – Numeric The number should contain leading zeros. The count of the records in this Dispute / Error file, including the Header and Trailer records.	50	59	Count of records Required	Count of records Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	60	60	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Dispute File ID	9 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC Dispute File Id assigned by Trading Partner. Must be unique for each file transmitted.	61	69	Required	Required
Pipe Delimiter	1 byte – ALPHA-NUMERIC Value '|' Separates each data field	70	70	Delimiter Required	Delimiter Required
Filler	442 bytes – ALPHA-NUMERIC **For Future Use** – should be populated with spaces	71	512		

Total = 512 bytes

NOTES:

Each record is a fixed length and contains a total of 512 bytes.

Each field is a fixed length and should be padded with spaces if necessary.

A pipe delimiter should separate each field.

A carriage return line feed (CRLF) terminates each record in a dispute file.

Table 4: Dispute Reason Codes

The following table lists all the dispute reason codes currently available. This is the code that is used to populate the Dispute or Error Reason field in the Detail Records.

Reason Code	Dispute Reason
000100	Duplicate Claim
000110	Duplicate Claim (within the same ISA-IEA loop)
000120	Duplicate Claim (within the same ST-SE loop)
000200	Unable to identify provider
000300	Beneficiary not on eligibility file
000310	Beneficiary record in transition
000400	**Reserved for future use**
000500	Incorrect claim count
000600	Claim does not meet selection criteria
000700	HIPAA Error
009999	Other