

Basic Character Set - X222A1

REQUEST

In the 5010 Health Care Claim: Professional (837) Errata, there was a change made to the Basic Character set. It states:

Appendix B Nomenclature

259. In section B.1.1.2.2., blank spaces in the Basic Character Set were replaced with a quote mark (") and apostrophe (').

REFERENCED X12 STANDARDS

The following X12 Standards were reviewed in developing this interpretation:

X12.6 Application Control Structure

Section 3.3.1

Basic Character Set

The basic character set of this standard consists of uppercase letters, digits, special characters, and space.

(1) Uppercase letters from A to Z:

<uppercase_letter> ::= "A" | ... | "Z"

(2) Digits from 0 to 9:

<digit> ::= "0" | ... | "9"

(3) Special characters:

<special_char> ::= "!" | """" | "&" | """" | "(" | ")" | "*" | "+" | "," | "-" | "." | "/" | ":" | ";" | "?" | "="

NOTE: *Special characters are removed from this category when used as delimiters.*

(4) The space character:

<space> ::= " "

X12.1 Transaction Standards

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B.1.1.2.2 Basic Character Set

The section that follows is designed to have representation in the common character code schemes of EBCDIC, ASCII, and CCITT International Alphabet 5. The ASC X12 standards are graphic-character-oriented; therefore, common character encoding schemes other than those specified herein may be used as long as a common mapping is available. Because the graphic characters have an implied mapping across character code schemes, those bit patterns are not provided here.

The basic character set of this standard, shown in Table B.1 - *Basic Character Set*, includes those selected from the uppercase letters, digits, space, and special characters as specified below.

Table B.1 - Basic Character Set

A...Z	0...9	!	&	()	+	*
,	-	.	/	:	;	?	= □ (space)

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B.1.1.2.2 Basic Character Set

The section that follows is designed to have representation in the common character code schemes of EBCDIC, ASCII, and CCITT International Alphabet 5. The ASC X12 standards are graphic-character-oriented; therefore, common character encoding schemes other than those specified herein may be used as long as a common mapping is available. Because the graphic characters have an implied mapping across character code schemes, those bit patterns are not provided here.

The basic character set of this standard, shown in Table B.1 - *Basic Character Set*, includes those selected from the uppercase letters, digits, space, and special characters as specified below.

Blank spaces replaced

Table B.1 - Basic Character Set

A...Z	0...9	!	"	&	'	()	+	*
,	-	.	/	:	;	?	=	"□" (space)	

Formal Interpretation

Per your request regarding the change made to the Basic Character set in the 5010 Health Care Claim 005010X222A1, per X12.6 Section 3.3.1 the basic character set includes the quote mark ("), apostrophe (') and the space character for version 5010 of the standard. The errata change is in compliance with the standard.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

We further note in the appendix of 004010X098A1 is the same as 005010X222A1. The table from 004010X098A1 is below:

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A.1.2.2

Basic Character Set

The section that follows is designed to have representation in the common character code schemes of EBCDIC, ASCII, and CCITT International Alphabet 5. The ASC X12 standards are graphic-character-oriented; therefore, common character encoding schemes other than those specified herein may be used as long as a common mapping is available. Because the graphic characters have an implied mapping across character code schemes, those bit patterns are not provided here.

The basic character set of this standard, shown in figure A2, Basic Character Set, includes those selected from the uppercase letters, digits, space, and special characters as specified below.

A...Z	0...9	!	“	&	'	()	*	+
,	-	.	/	:	;	?	=	” (space)	

Figure A2. Basic Character Set