USE OF LX01 IN TS 835

REQUEST

We request an interpretation on the use of Data Element 554 Assigned Number as it occurs as LX01 in Segment LX Transaction Set Line Number, as used within the 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice.

The issue for which an interpretation is requested is the following:

Does the standard require that the value in LX01 be unique within the transmission of an 835 transaction set (ST to SE)?

We have noted that this issue does not seem to be addressed in the purpose of the LX segment or in any segment notes. We note that the definition of DE 554 is “Number assigned for differentiation within a transaction set.” It is not clear if “differentiation” means that the value must be unique, in order to “differentiate” the line number. We also note that a transaction set note assigned to the LX segment states: “The LX segment is used to provide a looping structure and logical grouping of claim payment information.” Again, it is unclear if a “logical grouping” requires a unique identification of the grouping.

Standards Consulted and Cited

ASC X12 Transaction Set Tables, Version 004 Release 01, Subrelease 0
ASC X12 Segment Dictionary, Version 004 Release 01, Subrelease 0
ASC X12 Data Element Dictionary, Version 004 Release 01, Subrelease 0

This request for interpretation has been assigned by PRB to X12N, Insurance Subcommittee, for coordination, with X12J, Technical Assessment Subcommittee, as co-developer of the response. The request originated through a submission to the X12N HIPAA Implementation Guide Interpretation Portal. It was determined that this was a request for an interpretation of the standard, not a request about an issue specifically covered in the X12N Implementation Guide.

The interpretation request was identified as being made in regard to a transaction set created based on version 4010 of the standard. The request asked for interpretation about the use of LX01 within the 835 standard specifically.

The request states:
Are there any rules that apply when there are multiple 2000 LX01’s within the same ST/SE? Does every LX01 have to be a unique number? Or can the same number be used in multiple LX01’s?
Statement of Findings

LX01 is Data Element 554 Assigned Number. The definition of DE 554 states: “Number assigned for differentiation within a transaction set”.

The 835 Transaction Set has a Note for the use of the LX segment. Note 2/003 says: “The LX segment is used to provide a looping structure and logical grouping of claim payment information.”

Analysis

The transaction set note, which is part of the standard, assigns a purpose to the LX segment of providing a logical grouping. DE 554 has a purpose of providing differentiation. There cannot be a logical grouping unless the identifier for each group, in this case LX01, is differentiated, and therefore unique.

INTERPRETATION

In the context of the 835 transaction, repeats of the LX segment within a specific transaction (from the ST to the SE segments) require a unique value in each repeat of LX01.