State self-assessments now measure alignment with the Seven Standards.

Here is what you need to know to apply for enhanced Medicaid funding.

MITA 3.0 State Self-Assessment and the Seven Standards and Conditions

Overview

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is interested in modernizing and reducing the customization of federally supported healthcare processing systems across the nation. To support this goal, CMS has published *Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA) Framework 3.0 and Enhanced Funding Requirements: Seven Conditions and Standards* (also known as the Seven Standards) to provide guidance. These publications present guidelines that a State Medicaid Agency (SMA) must include when seeking to make system enhancements. To receive enhanced federal funding for these upgrades, each state must submit an Advanced Planning Document to CMS. The APD must include the relevant portions of the MITA State Self-Assessment (SS-A), which now incorporates the Seven Standards and Conditions in the assessment process.

The State Self-Assessment includes structured documentation that describes the business, information and technical capabilities of the State Medicaid Enterprise. The purpose of conducting the SS-A is to identify the As-Is operations and To-Be environment sought. Using standard methodologies and tools to document the way a state currently conducts business – and intends to conduct business in the future – the SS-A facilitates alignment of the SMA to MITA Business, Information and Technical Architectures, as well as the *Enhanced Funding Requirements: Seven Conditions and Standards.*

Seven Standards and Conditions

The Seven Standards and Conditions can be summarized as follows:

The Modularity Standard requires a modular, flexible approach to systems development, including the use of open interfaces and exposed Application Programming Interfaces (API); the separation of business rules from core programming; and the availability of business rules in both human and machine-readable formats. The rules should be publishable to a designated federal repository. The states must also commit to formal system development methodology and open, reusable system architecture. This standard ensures that states can deploy future software versions without breaking custom functionality.

The MITA Condition requires states to align with and advance through the levels of MITA maturity for business, architecture and data. As part of this process, states must produce MITA Self-Assessments, Roadmaps, Concept of Operation and Business Process Models.

The Industry Standards Condition ensures alignment with, and incorporation of, industry standards, including HIPAA security, privacy and transaction standards; accessibility standards established under section 508c of the Rehabilitation Act; and standards adopted under section 1104 and section 1561 of the Affordable Care Act.

The Leverage Condition promotes sharing, leverage and reuse of Medicaid technologies and systems within and among states. It emphasizes shared development activities and multi-state efforts, encourages open source, cloud-based or commercial products, and supports the transition and retirement of duplicative systems.

During the State Self-Assessment, the State Medicaid Agency assesses each of the three MITA architectures (i.e., Business, Information and Technical) for its current capability level using the general guidelines regarding maturity levels from the MITA framework.

The Business Results Condition ensures that systems support accurate and timely processing of claims (including claims of eligibility), adjudications and effective communications with providers, beneficiaries and the public. This condition also encourages SLA and KPI measurements of performance standards.

The Reporting Condition requires solutions to produce transaction data, reports and performance information that contribute to program evaluation, continuous improvement in business operations, and transparency and accountability. The resulting data should be publishable via exposed APIs to designated reporting repositories.

Finally, the Interoperability Condition ensures seamless coordination and integration with the Exchange (whether run by the state or federal government) and allows interoperability with health information exchanges, public health agencies, human services programs and community organizations providing outreach and enrollment assistance services.

Conducting the State Self-Assessment

During the State Self-Assessment, the SMA assesses each of the three MITA architectures (i.e., Business, Information and Technical) for its current capability level using the general guidelines regarding maturity levels from the MITA framework. The SMA uses the MITA Maturity Model (MMM), Business Capability Matrix, Information Capability Matrix and Technical Capability Matrix to evaluate the As-Is operations and environmental capabilities.

The SMA records the desired target capabilities. During the SS-A process, subject matter experts review, modify or create various templates and documents to conduct a thorough investigation of the capabilities across all three MITA Architectures as well as the Seven Standards. Supporting evidence should represent either the current As-Is operations, the To-Be environment or both, depending on the context within the SS-A.

State Self-Assessment Scorecards
The SS-A Companion Guide incorporates scorecards as tools for the SMA to conduct its SS-A. The SS-A scorecards assist with data collection and maturity evaluation. The following scorecards are included within the guidance:

• Business Architecture Scorecard: Summarizes the State Medicaid Enterprise As-Is and To-Be capabilities.

• Information Architecture Scorecard: Summarizes the As-Is operations and To-Be environment based on the Information Architecture standards of Data Management Strategy, Conceptual Data Model Logical Data Model, and data standards.

• Technical Architecture Scorecard: Summarizes the As-Is operations and To-Be environment based on the Technical Service Areas and Technical Service Classifications.

• Seven Standards and Conditions Scorecard: Provides an evaluation tool and guide for the current and future capabilities of the Seven Standards and Conditions.

Although CMS does not require the scorecards as part of the SS-A, it provides them as guides to conduct a thorough review of all three architectures and the Seven Standards and Conditions.

Addition of the Seven Standards and Conditions Scorecard

MITA 3.0 SS-A Companion Guide provides recommendations and guidance in completing the Business, Information and Technical Architecture scorecards. The SMA must meet all the capabilities for a MITA Maturity level before it can advance to the next level when evaluating each of the architectures. While the format and detail of these assessment tools changed from MITA 2.01 SS-A, the general concept and steps are similar within MITA 3.0.

The Seven Standards and Conditions Scorecard is completely new for MITA 3.0. It evaluates each of the MITA architectures for each MITA business area through the prism of each of the Seven Standards and Conditions.

The MITA 3.0 documentation provides an initial Seven Standards Maturity Model and Capability Matrix in the SS-A, Appendix A, Seven Standards and Conditions Details. This document provides guidance in applying increasing levels of capabilities for compliance with the Seven Standards and Conditions. The Capability Matrix is the primary tool for defining the As-Is operations and To-Be environment for this section of the State Self-Assessment. For each of the 10 MITA business areas, the SMA evaluates its maturity level for As-Is operations and To-Be environment capabilities according to the Capability Matrix.

The Seven Standards Scorecard is a data collection guide for determination of the As-Is operations and To-Be environment of the State Medicaid Enterprise. The scorecard format is repeated for each of the 10 MITA 3.0 business areas. Within each business area, each of the Seven Standards and Conditions is measured within the context of each of the three MITA architectures including documentation of any supporting references.

Seven Standards and Conditions Scorecard Format

Business Area (Repeat 10 times)
Condition (Repeat for each of 7 conditions/standards within business area)

Business Architecture	As-Is Level	To-Be Level
Supporting References		
Information Architecture	As-Is Level	To-Be Level
Supporting References		
Technical Architecture	As-Is Level	To-Be Level
Supporting References		

Conclusion

CMS emphasizes the importance of the Seven Standards and Conditions in the design and development of healthcare systems by including them as a fundamental cornerstone in the State Self-Assessment activity. Continued enhanced federal funding depends upon system modernization that focuses on incorporating industry standards, business rules and Service Oriented Architecture principles. States are strongly encouraged to complete their MITA 3.0 State Self-Assessment within 12 months of the final release of the MITA 3.0 framework. The SS-A is a required element in all APD submissions for enhanced federal funding for Medicaid technology investments. The ultimate goal of the MITA SS-A and the Seven Standards is to foster improved business results and enhance interoperability to ultimately lower costs and improve health outcomes.

Conduent strongly supports the evolution of healthcare systems envisioned through higher MITA Maturity aligned to the principles set forth in the Seven Standards and Conditions. Our solutions can help states succeed in the transformation of their healthcare administration capabilities. For more information on how we can help your state, please visit **www.conduent.com/govhealthcare** or call 877.414.2676.

References

This paper is based on material presented in the MITA SS-A Companion Guide 3.0 published by CMS.

MITA 3.0 link:

www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/MITA/Medicaid-Information-Technology-Architecture-MITA-30.html

Seven Standards and Conditions link:

www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/Data-and-Systems.html

Scorecard templates for the Business Architecture, Information Architecture, Technical Architecture and the Seven Standards and Conditions State Self-Assessment are available with the *SS-A Companion Guide 3.0.*

Guidance for the Seven Standards and Conditions Maturity Model is available in
SS-A Appendix A, Seven Standards and Conditions 3.0.

You can learn more about us at www.conduent.com/govhealthcare.