

Technical Questions and Answers

Technical questions and answers about the delivery of these reports via EDT are listed below:

Question	Answer
1. When will these reports be available electronically?	These reports will be available via EDT in the fall 2009. Another communication will be issued containing the exact date and providing additional details. UPDATE: These reports are now available via EDT.
2. Why are these reports being provided electronically?	This is the first initiative in the ministry's long term strategy to provide current and future reports electronically to allow flexibility to customize reports.
3. Why are reports in XML format?	Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a recognized international standard for the encoding of data exchanged between third parties. It is widely used in both the private and public sectors and is an official standard of the Ontario Government. XML was chosen as the encoding standard due to its ease of implementation and the flexibility it offers when modifying reports.
4. What is an XML parser?	An XML parser is the piece of software that reads an XML file, recognizing the structure of the data it contains, and makes the data available to software applications. It tests whether a document is well-formed and, if given an XML schema, it will also check for validity (i.e., it determines if the document follows the syntactic and semantic rules defined by the schema).
5. What kind of software packages have an XML parser built in?	<p>Microsoft Word and Excel both contain XML parsers, enabling them to recognize and display well-formed XML documents. Windows® operating systems since the 2000 version and Internet Explorer browsers version 5 and subsequent versions include a validating XML parser.</p> <p>Most third party internet browsers such as Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Opera, Lynx, Archne and Epiphany also have an XML parser built in. To determine if the software application is XML enabled, have it try to read one of the schemas or sample report files on the XML Schemas and Sample Reports link. Otherwise, contact your vendor.</p>
6. Can a Macintosh computer read these XML reports?	Yes, Macintosh computers can read the electronic report files and are currently in use for the submission of claims via EDT as well as retrieval of files sent to EDT mailboxes.
7. Are Clinical Management Systems (CMS) equipped to handle these XML reports?	Please follow up with your CMS vendor.
8. When will these reports be available to download through the EDT test environment?	They will be available in the EDT test environment prior to implementation in the fall 2009. Another communication will be issued to provide the date the test reports will be available and additional details. UPDATE: These reports are now available via EDT.
9. What are the benefits of the sample reports?	The sample reports will assist vendors in testing parsers created from the schemas to read the XML reports. They are a starting point for vendors to develop test cases for their parsers and should not be considered to provide comprehensive test coverage.

10. Have the contents of the paper reports been changed?	No, the paper reports have not changed and the XML reports have all of the same data elements.
11. Are these reports compressed when they are delivered to the EDT mailbox?	All of the reports are sent in a compressed format due to the large size of the file. De-compression is not an available option for the XML reports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Service Support Contact Centre** at 1-800-262-6524, or in Kingston, call (613) 548-7981.