

# AT&T to VERIZON:

## Transition of Medicare Systems from AT&T to Verizon Network



### Who is doing what?

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is consolidating data communication service for all of its Operating Divisions - including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - (CMS) under Verizon. This is being driven by the Networkx contracts initiative designed to promote government-wide enterprise architecture initiatives and provide a framework to support cross-agency collaboration, transformation and technology improvement. As a result, all Medicare systems maintained by CMS - and historically accessible only using the AT&T network - will be transitioned to Verizon.

### What's happening?

The move to Verizon for CMS and CMS External Business partners requires that all dedicated circuits provided by AT&T that are connecting directly to CMS systems be transitioned to Verizon. This effort will be managed by the CMS Office of Information Services (OIS) Networkx Transition Team and Verizon.

The move from AT&T to Verizon for any entity with non-CMS funded access, such as healthcare providers and vendors, means they need to be assured by their current Network Service Vendor (NSV) that they will be transitioned to the Verizon network to ensure undisrupted access to Medicare systems.

CMS policy strictly prohibits the direct Internet connectivity to Medicare systems. Instead, the "last mile" of connectivity is required to utilize a dedicated circuit to the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and Enterprise Data Center (EDC) resources. In the past, this access was contracted to ATT via their AGNS (AT&T Global Network Service). With the new HHS contract with Verizon, this access is required to change.

This change affects access to Medicare eligibility via HETS (HIPAA Eligibility Transaction System), mainframe access to interactive systems including DDE, PPTN, and CSI as well as batch connectivity for EDI transactions to each of the MACs or legacy Medicare Contractors. These changes should be handled by the Network Service Vendor on behalf of their customers.

### When will this change occur?

The Verizon transition will occur between January 2011 and June 2011.

## How will this affect me?

Your NSV is required to comply with this change. You may be required to make changes, depending on which NSV you contract with for your connectivity. Some examples of potential changes:

1. You may require a different emulator package for accessing mainframe resources.
2. Changes will occur to the format of the mainframe screens. If you use an automated process to access these screens, you will need to make changes to your programming.
3. If you utilize a dedicated circuit for access, you will need to redirect or replace your connectivity.

During the month of April, you should receive information from your NSV on any changes that you are required to make. If your NSV handles this transition correctly, you shouldn't experience any disruption in service.

## How will this affect my connectivity through ABILITY (formerly VisionShare)?

ABILITY customers will experience no disruption in their connectivity. All changes to the Verizon circuits will be handled seamlessly. As a result of these changes, ABILITY customers will be provided access to the new EDC mainframe screens.

## If I have more questions, whom do I contact?

For further information on the transition to Verizon, send an email to [Transitions@ABILITYnetwork.com](mailto:Transitions@ABILITYnetwork.com)



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