

Subject line of email: IMPORTANT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT - CMS transitioning to Transport Layer Security (AT-TLS) for all remote TN3270 connections

Immediate Attention Required

What is happening?

CMS is transitioning to Transport Layer Security (AT-TLS) for all remote TN3270 connections.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced an upgraded process to their cryptographic protocols for all of its remote TN3270 connections with the CMS Enterprise Data Centers (EDCs) located in Columbia, SC, and Tulsa, OK. This action is required in accordance with NIST guidelines and FISMA security requirements to ensure these TN3270 connections are compliant with Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2.

When does it take effect?

The compliance deadline is September 30, 2013. ABILITY® has been alerting providers of this CMS transition since May 2013.

How will it affect me?

Under some circumstances there is a potential risk to TN3270 access to the Medicare DDE/FISS application. If you are connecting to either of the EDCs using IVANS legacy platforms, NetGate® Multi-User Hardware VPN Device, Site-To-Site, LIME™ Direct Software VPN, LIME™ Enterprise VPN or AT&T Dedicated Circuit, you may be unable to connect to the EDC for DDE/FISS access. This will negatively impact your user's ability to access the Medicare Common Working File (CWF) for eligibility verification, check claims status, append and key Medicare claims. Currently, TN3270 connections with the EDCs are encrypted and many sites may already be FIPS 140-2 compliant. However, as a precautionary and proactive measure we are notifying any and all customers who are at potential risk.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have already upgraded to ABILITY Network and completed your implementation of the myABILITY 2.0 Portal or Secure Exchange Software Enterprise (SESE), you are safeguarded from any disruption.

What do I need to do to prevent Medicare DDE/FISS service interruption?

1. **Firewall settings** – If you are connecting to either of the EDCs using IVANS legacy platforms, NetGate® Multi-User Hardware VPN Device, Site-To-Site, LIME™ Direct Software VPN, LIME™ Enterprise VPN or AT&T Dedicated Circuit, you would be connecting to one of these two host addresses:

158.73.213.27	Port 23038	TN3270 to access CDS Data Center
158.73.215.10	Port 23038	TN3270 to access HP Data Center

What you should do – You will need to update your firewall settings to support access to port 23015. ABILITY® Network has managed the other network and security modifications connecting to the EDC.

2. **TN3270 client software** – CMS requires that users accessing the EDCs leverage a FIPS compliant emulator that supports Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol version 1.1 protocols. TLS enables a client and server to establish a secure, encrypted connection over a public network. When you connect using SSL/TLS, the client authenticates the server before making a connection, and all data passed between the emulator and the CMS Data Center is encrypted.

What you should do – If you are using a third party TN3270 client (Rumba®, Attachmate™, Passport™, Reflections®, etc.):

- Confirm with your TN3270 vendor that the client software is FIPS 140-2 compliant and supports the TLS protocol version 1.1; configure to this option setting.
- Change the port in the TN3270 software from port 23038 to 23015.

Keep in mind that this is a **temporary** fix for the current CMS transition.

How do I safeguard our systems against future CMS transitions?

If you implement the new myABILITY Portal or Secure Exchange Software Enterprise (SESE), you will be protected against future occurrences such as this.

Need additional assistance or have a question?

Please contact ABILITY Network Customer Support. Our experienced customer service representatives are available to assist you from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. Central Time, Monday through Friday.

Call: 800.548.2675

Email: technical.support@abilitynetwork.com

If you have already made the required firewall modifications and enabled TLS settings on your TN3270 emulator, we'd like to know for our records. Please confirm you are successfully connecting to the Medicare EDCs by sending an email, with your IVANS account #, to technical.support@abilitynetwork.com.