

Tax IDs and Master Patient Index:

Keeping things Neatly Organized, Your Way

Your medical group, enterprise network, imaging center, laboratory, or any level of care treatment center may operate under one tax ID or dozens (or more) of them, perhaps for:

- ✓ individual providers, or for groups of providers under one tax ID
- ✓ possibly based on specialty or place(s) of service (POS)
- ✓ for any different business segments

Medical billing companies definitely need multiple tax ID entities.

Entities are excellent for segmenting and separating patients, their data, and their providers into their own HIPAA-compliant tax ID cells. Yet, there may be times when administrators or other authorized users should be able to view and compile reports comprised of multiple tax ID entities.

While maintaining HIPAA compliance, the tax ID entity architecture should be designed to be open and maneuverable, adapting to the user's login and preferences:

- ✓ When a patient from one entity becomes a patient in another entity (a common occurrence for groups), the system should provide an easy way to click that patient's information into the new entity and any subsequent entities while keeping their information in the previous ones.
- ✓ Those authorized to be in multiple tax ID entities must be able to switch fluidly between them without spending their days logging into and out of them.
- ✓ As mentioned, financial and operational analytics, KPIs, reports, and dashboards must be compilable based on any single entity, or by selected multiple entities, or rolled up with all entities based on the user's accessibility to any or all entities.
- ✓ The appointment scheduler must be entity-specific or centralized when needed.
- ✓ If additional entities are needed because you're expanding or reconfiguring, the system should allow you to add them individually, allowing you to customize your setup according to your specific requirements.

Bonus feature: Directories

For financial or accounting purposes, you may want a specific business segment(s) to be separated with no connection to the others. You can have that if your RCM company or in-house system supports directories. You'd have as many separate *directories* as needed; ideally, directory architecture should support multiple tax IDs.

Entities and directories are designed to keep things orderly in ways that work best for you based on your business model. But remember, they should work for you; you shouldn't work for *them*!

Master Patient Index (MPI)

You may have hundreds, thousands, or tens of thousands of patients. Any one patient may appear in multiple tax IDs.

For example, let's say John Doe was assigned 48878 as his unique ID (MPI) number when he became a new patient in tax ID entity 123. Over time, he also became a patient in three other tax IDs. Regardless of the tax IDs, his MPI number remains 48878 in all of them, identifying him as the same patient in all four tax IDs.

You'll want an RCM company with a system supporting MPI architecture or an in-house system that also does.

The obvious advantage is that MPI enables you to identify a specific patient across the enterprise, whether they're in one tax ID entity or any number of them.

Bonus feature: De-Duping Patients

You'll want AI to drive your system's ability to prevent the creation of duplicate patient records. This means you don't want to fully enter a patient's information and save it only to find out the patient already exists. You'll want to know about possible dupes as you're entering the patient's demographics.

But you might still want to intentionally enter a duplicate record for whatever internal reason you may have. No problem. The system should produce an alert that the patient already exists, and do you want to proceed? If yes, that's your decision and then the patient's new record is entered.

But then, the system should be able to report on all duplicate patients, enabling you to keep track of them.

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With HIPAA-compliant tax ID entities, MPI architecture, and AI-driven de-duping, you'll be assured of having a clean patient and provider database!

ADSRM and **ADS** support tax IDs, directories, MPI, and de-duping, all as described. Contact us for more about our outsourced financial, operations, and staffing services or about our platforms if in-house automation is preferred. Clients can also access the **ONC-certified MedicsCloud EHR** or retain their existing EHRs interfaced with us. You'll drive revenue, efficiency, and productivity in ways that work best for you.



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