



Media Advisory
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First Data Ready to Support IIAS Transactions

First Data has successfully tested the processing of real merchant transactions utilizing a new healthcare inventory information approval system (IIAS) process. Effective January 1, 2008, IRS rules stipulate that healthcare debit cards can be used at non-medical Merchant Category Code (MCC) code merchants, such as grocery, discount and wholesale club merchants, only if the merchant has implemented an IIAS.

First Data implemented code to enable IIAS-based transactions in its core processing system in 2005 and 2006. These early preparations allowed First Data to respond to the need of its healthcare transaction processing clients. Final code to meet the Associations' Fall 2007 specifications will be in place on October 12, positioning First Data's clients to take advantage of IIAS.

Implementation of an IIAS is generally considered critical in the wide-scale delivery of auto-adjudication, from significantly reducing administration costs for TPAs to eliminating the cardholder's need to submit and file records for reimbursement.

First Data provides end-to-end payment solutions that streamline the healthcare experience for patients, providers, and payers. The company pioneered a multi-use healthcare card that provides access to HSA, HRA, FSA, and other funding sources, including an integrated line of credit.

Media contacts:
Donna Pennington
Donna.pennington@firstdata.com
402-222-6178