**User Story Number:** TSEB-1

**User Story Name:** X12 837 Field Length Adjustments

**Product Backlog ID:** 329

**Backlog Priority:** 9

**Initial Sizing Estimate:** Original 34/Downsized to 13 when scope changed during Elaboration Session(s)

**Rational ID:** (to be added later)

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# Background

There are currently data fields in VistA that are used in the creation of the proprietary claim messages sent to the Financial Services Center (FSC), who creates the X12N/005010X222 Health Care Claim (837) or X12N/005010X223 Health Care Claim (837) transactions, that are not as long as the maximum lengths allowed in the X12N/005010 Health Care Claim (837) guides.

# Story

As a user of the VistA IB software, which is responsible for the creation of electronic professional and institutional claims, I want to have the option to send electronic claims to third-party payers which contain data elements of a length up to the maximum length allowed in the X12N/005010X222 Health Care Claim (837) guides.

# Conversation

The Integrated Billing (IB) VistA package currently has the ability to send proprietary professional and institutional medical claims to FSC. These claims contain data that is used by FSC to create transactions that comply with the X12N/005010X222 Health Care Claim (837) and X12N/005010X223 Health Care Claim (837) standards. Where possible, the IB software needs to be modified so that claim data can be transmitted in updated data element sizes, in the proprietary claim messages sent to FSC, that are compliant with the latest version of the 837 standards. The IB software also needs to be modified to allow the entry of longer data. This change will ensure that the third party payers receive and process claims and distribute payments to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) without any issues caused because VistA could not capture or store data elements as long as those allowed by the standards.

* IB sends relevant X12 837 claim data with the field lengths matching those listed in the table attached below. The spreadsheet lists the fields, their current length and the changes to be made.



There is a desire to expand data fields to the maximum length specified in the X12N/005010X222 Health Care Claim (837) and X12N/005010X223 Health Care Claim (837) guides where noted. Two examples of fields that are not going to be expanded are:

* Telephone (222 characters) - keep at 10 characters, there is already separate field for extension if needed
* URL fields

# Detailed Listing of Acceptance Criteria

The following table lists acceptance criteria for this user story:

| ID | Criteria |
| --- | --- |
| EB1-1-1 | Users can enter up to the maximum number of characters allowed in the X12N/005010X222 Health Care Claim (837) and X12N/005010X223 Health Care Claim (837) guides in the fields affected by the updated IB screens. |
| EB1-1-2 | Vista files can store the longer data for the modified data fields in the affected files. |
| EB1-1-3 | VistA can transmit up to the maximum number of characters allowed in the X12N/005010X222 Health Care Claim – Professional (837) guide for the fields affected by this change. |
| EB1-1-4 | VistA can transmit up to the maximum number of characters allowed in the X12N/005010X223 Health Care Claim - Institutional (837) guide for the fields affected by this change. |
| EB1-1-5 | VistA IB does not receive any HIPAA compliance errors associated with field size compliance. . |
| EB1-1-6 | The X12 837-I and 837-P transactions with up to the maximum field sizes are transmitted from FSC to the HCCH and on to the payer without any field size compliance errors. |
| EB1-1-7 | Users can view the data entered in the longer data fields in IB screens and IB reports where it is determined that room to display is possible. |

# Constraints

* Development can only modify fields owned by Integrated Billing.
* Development can only modify fields that are not accessed by other VistA packages.

# Assumptions

* The IB screens that display the new longer fields will be updated.
* Data elements on the IB screens that do not contain modified fields will remain on their current screens when possible.
* The Vista 837 ICD will be updated.
* The Output Formatter that extracts the 837 data and formats the proprietary 837 message will be modified to extract longer data fields.
* The IB display screens should continue to left justify data on user display screens.
* This software will be developed using Fileman v22.2.

# Risks

Users will be unable to enter complete data because the billing screens do not support the input of longer data or the output formatter that creates the 837 transaction to FSC does not support the transmission of longer data. This could lead to the rejection of a claim by a payer.

# Approval Signatures

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**Revision History**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Version | Description | Author |
| 08/23/2016 | v0.01 | Original | Julie Mann, Leidos |
| 09/01/2016 | v0.02 | Updated from eBilling group review | Julie Mann |
| 09/12/2016 | v0.03 | Updated from eBilling group review | Julie Mann |
| 09/29/2016 | v0.04 | Updated following elaboration session | M. Simons |
| 10/06/2016 | v0.05 | Updated following Online elaboration session | M. Simons |
| 11/4/2016 | v1.0 | Updated following Tech Writer review | M. Simons |