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Astera Product

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Similarly, PBMs sent monthly invoices comprising of prescription and billing information in a spreadsheet. However, these invoices had the same compatibility issue and couldn't be called in the SQL Server database, making it challenging to aggregate usage data for drugs.

"What we needed to look at was how much we are spending by product or category, which medication is needed more than others, which brands are cheaper, provide quality medication, etc. By doing this, we can easily identify which medication is more cost-effective for us to buy to fulfill the purpose and then determine the cost savings we were able to achieve."

To optimize the process, the VISN bought Altair Monarch to extract invoice data from PDFs and spreadsheets. But soon, they realized that while the tool was easy-to-use, it involved individually processing each file to transform into an SQL compatible format.

Business Goals

To liberate data from wholesaler and PBM invoices, and transform it into an SQL Server compatible format for regular medication cost and inventory analysis.

"I would literally need to go in, copy the data file into excel, and use a number of excel functions to find and manually correct errors in each file."

~ Amanda Moede, Health Plan Data Analyst

With almost 25 EDI files coming in every two weeks, it took data analysts a great deal of time to scrutinize them manually. Sometimes, a single transaction document took about 3 hours to eliminate errors and ensure compliance with the state department's standards.

"Before we purchased EDIConnect, we updated all EDI files manually. This took up a large amount of time and made it easy for mistakes to occur. Considering the large amount of data we had to correct, we did not have time for all corrections to be made, which caused us to struggle to keep our acceptance rate high enough for state contract requirements."

Business Goals

To increase the accuracy and quality of data in EDI files sent to the Department of Public Health, Wisconsin, and enhance the data submission and approval rates for higher claim reimbursements.

Astera Solution and Results

"The usability of Astera Centerprise is pretty high on the scale to other products we looked at. Compared to EDIConnect, other products looked as complex as a spider web. On top of that, you get the ability to automate the processing the files. So you set it up once and if any files comes in, the product automatically pulls it, corrects it, and creates a new, error-free file."

Error-Free EDI Files in Just 5 Minutes

"Being able to automate files and not even have to touch them before they are corrected and sent out – that is amazing and saves a lot of time we would otherwise be wasted in correcting, processing, and preparing new EDI files."

Astera EDIConnect is an enterprise-grade EDI solution that allows businesses to perform frictionless B2B information exchange through its robust EDI parser, validator, and transaction builder functionalities.

CCHP has built an end-to-end EDI correction system that only takes a few clicks to remove errors from the encounters with the product. The process only requires data analysts to copy-paste EDI files into the EDIConnect server folder, wait for the tool to run dataflows to clean and prepare the data, verify the corrections, and send the files to the state department.

“Each change in the file done manually used to take 3 hours, which would average to about 2 days per month or 192 hours/\$6500 per year. Now it takes just 5 minutes.”

Since the process now involves little to no intervention from the data reporting team, it saves about 5 weeks' worth of manual coding and reviewing efforts to resolve errors, which roughly translates into \$26,000/year. In addition, CCHP has also saved \$65,000/year in hiring an additional full-time employee for managing these EDI files.

Data Submission and Approval Rates Hitting 99%

Due to recurring errors in the encounters, CCHP barely met the 95% criteria of data submission and approval rate for State Medicaid reimbursements. With EDIConnect in the driver's seat to maintain data quality, the non-profit HMO has been continually reaching 97 to 98% EDI approval rates. This has led to a higher number of accepted claims that solidifies its NCQA-certified vendor status and brings in more revenue from the state department.

“This year, we even get it up to 99%, which is a little unheard of, but we were able to achieve it through the EDIConnect tool. It makes sure that each transaction is compliant and not having to worry about going through each individual error and correcting them one by one in a manual way. ”

Retaining Over \$100,000 in Claims Reimbursement

For CCHP, the real value of adding EDIConnect to its technology stack comes from the huge increase in the yearly reimbursements from the accepted claims, which is directly attributed to the improved EDI data accuracy. Now the state department is paying back dollar for dollar for claims related to the Care 4 Kids program, allowing CCHP to retain \$100,000 in reimbursements.

“On top of the hours and weeks it has saved the data reporting team, it has actually increased our revenue by over \$100,000 because of the higher accuracy of data sent to the state.”

Overall, CCHP has found the product to be comprehensive as it checks all the boxes, from providing stellar data accuracy and validation capabilities to automating the process end-to-end, taking away the headaches of manually data quality completely out of the process.

“Astera Centerprise has created an environment where I can create an accurate EDI file in a matter of minutes. CCHP chose this product in lieu of hiring another person to work on encounter data. Astera has kept our business because the product is easy to work with, can be set up once to be used daily, can be automated to process files with no intervention and because the support we receive from their company is high quality.”

About Astera ReportMiner

Astera ReportMiner is a complete data extraction solution that is purpose-built to handle a range of unstructured data formats, including PDFs, PDF forms, TXT, PRN, RTF, XLS, and XLSX. It combines rule-based data extraction with an enterprise-grade ETL engine to help businesses streamline the extraction, transformation, and integration of data trapped in unstructured data files.

For more information, please visit www.astera.com or contact +1 888-772-7837