Machine-Readable File
A guide to validating a CMS-compliant machine-readable file

November, 2024

HOSPITAL PRICING SPECIALISTS

About Us

- Founded in 2011, Based in Silicon Valley, California

- Exclusively Focused on Hospital Pricing Analytics for CAHs: (1) price transparency; (2) pricing reviews; (3) chargemaster reviews

- Currently providing price transparency services for CAHs across 27 states

Price Transparency Solutions

Our Leadership Team

Rick Louie
Managing Director

Faye Openshaw
VP, Sales

Etosha McGee
VP, Consulting Services

Randi Brantner
VP, Operations

Price Transparency
Solutions

HOSPITAL
PRICING SPECIALISTS

Step 1 – Accessing the Online Machine-Readable File Validator

- Navigate to this website: https://cmsgov.github.io/hpt-tool/online-validator/

- This platform is recommended for non-technical users who need to validate individual files.

Price Transparency Solutions
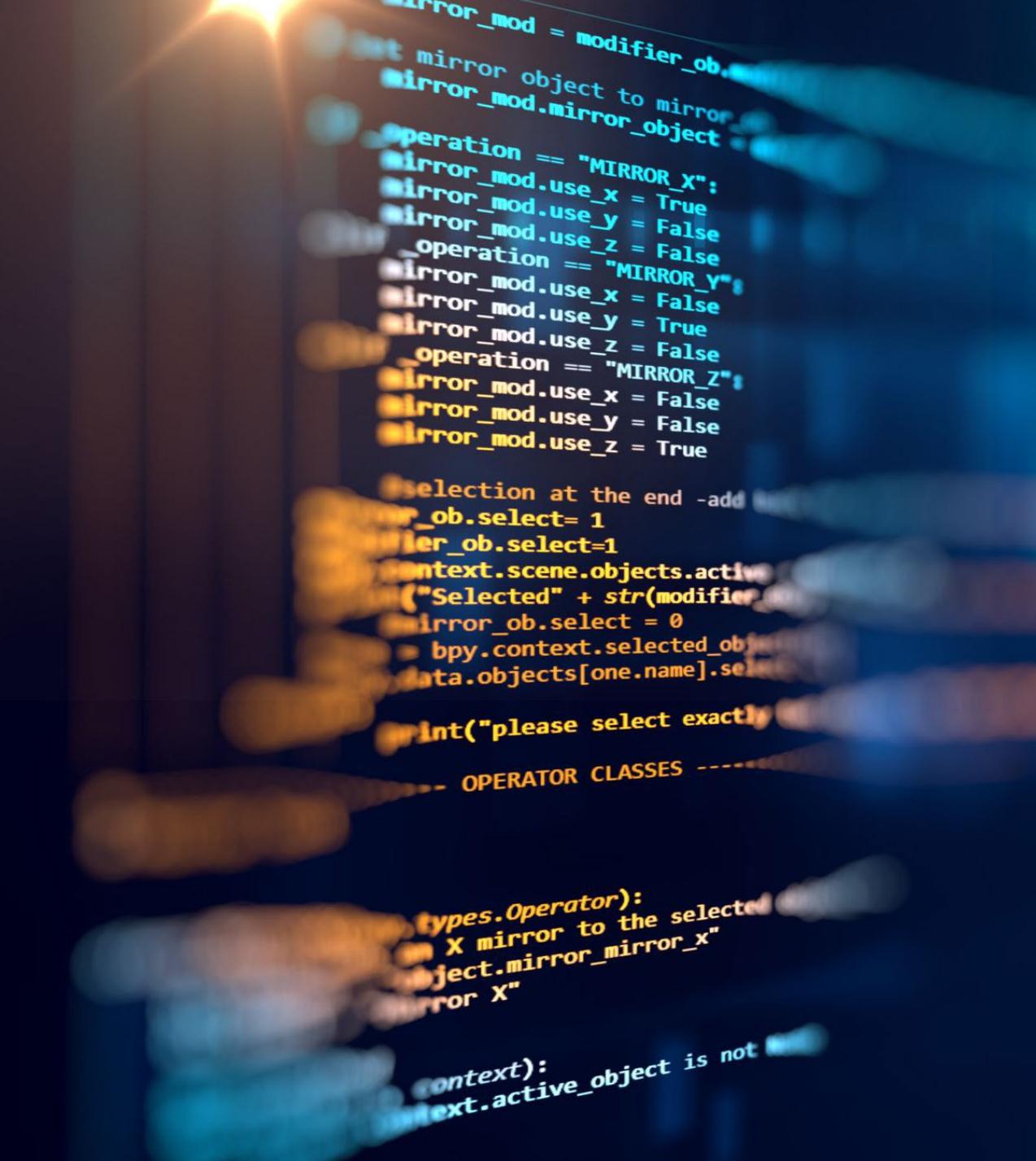
Step 2 – Running the Machine-Readable File Validator

- Upon accessing the site, you'll find an option to upload your hospital machine-readable file.

- Select your file and upload it; the validator will automatically process the file.

- The system will check the file against the CMS template layout and data dictionary technical specifications.

Upload file

Files must be in a required CMS template format (.json or .csv)

Drag file here or choose from folder

Price Transparency Solutions

HOSPITAL PRICING SPECIALISTS

Step 3 – Understanding the Machine-Readable File Validator Output

- The validator provides two types of feedback:

1. Errors: These indicate that the file does not meet the CMS specifications effective from July 1, 2024.

2. Warnings: These suggest future compliance issues with specifications effective from January 1, 2025.

- The online validator stops reviewing the file if more than 250 errors are detected to prevent overwhelming the user.

Price Transparency Solutions

Step 4 – Correcting Validator Errors

- Each error message will detail the exact location and nature of the issue.

- Reference the CMS Data Dictionary - https://github.com/CMSgov/hospital-price-transparency - for guidance on making the necessary adjustments.

- After making corrections, re-upload the file to confirm that all errors have been resolved.

Price Transparency Solutions

H SPITAL
PRICING SPECIALISTS

Step 5 – Handling Special Characters in File Headers

- File headers can include special characters as long as they conform to UTF-8 encoding standards.

- Ensure that any use of pipes (|) or commas in headers follows the specific requirements outlined in the data dictionary.

Price Transparency Solutions
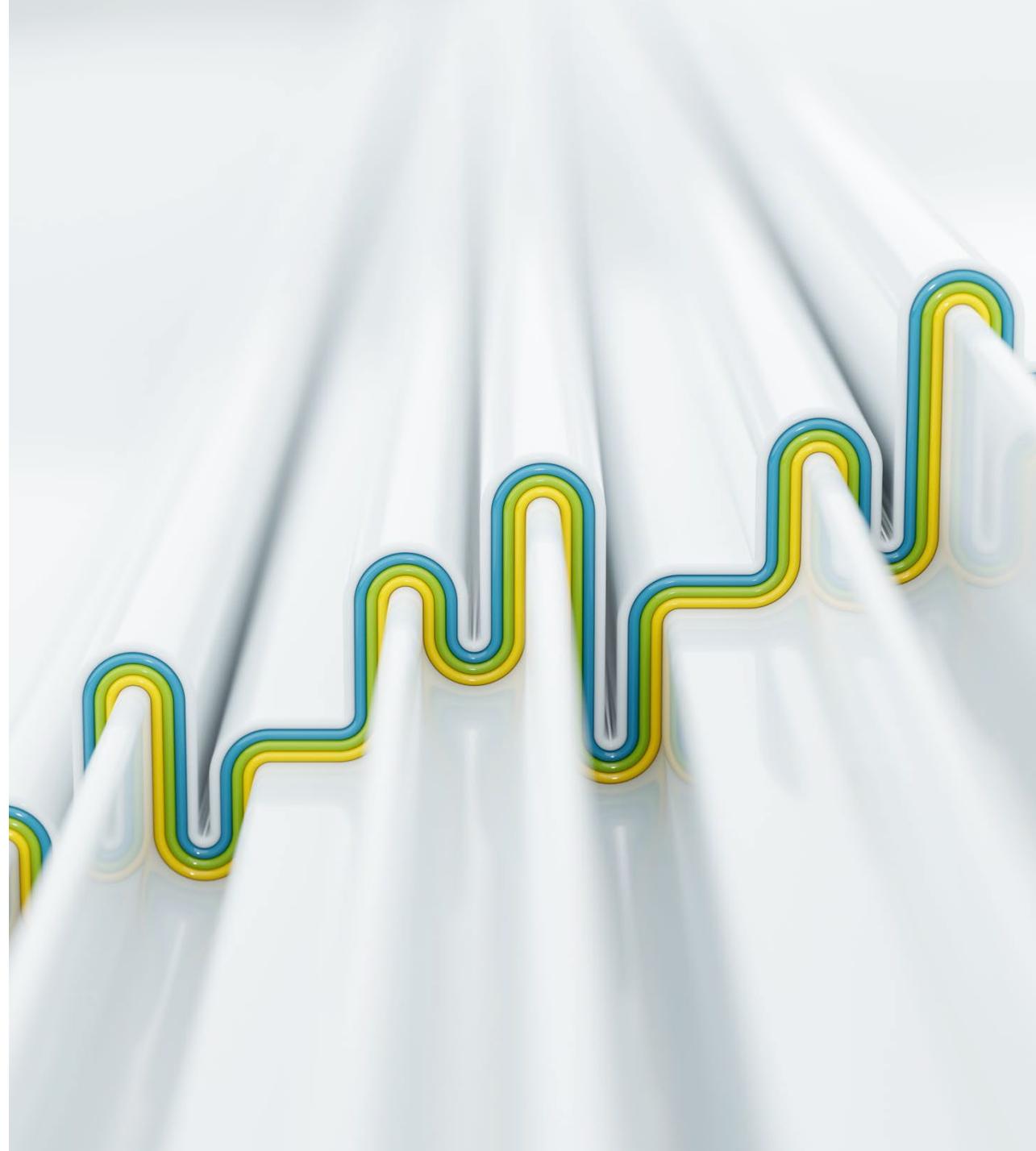
Step 6 – File Testing and Browser Compatibility

- There are no specific file size limits, but larger files may slow down the processing time.

- The validator works optimally with the most recent versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, and Safari.

Price Transparency Solutions

Step 7 – Final Machine-Readable File Verification

- A file is considered compliant with the CMS standards if no errors or warnings remain after the final validation.

- It's essential to verify compliance through the validator after each set of corrections.

Price Transparency Solutions

Step 8 – Seeking Help

- If you encounter issues or have questions:

1. Check the Data Dictionary GitHub Discussions for similar queries or post a new question.

2. For policy-related queries, email CMS at PriceTransparencyHospitalCharges@cms.hhs.gov

3. Contact Hospital Pricing Specialists. As an NRHA Pipeline Partner, we are happy to help members.

- Schedule a free meeting with HPS:

   Meet-HPS.com

Worried about price transparency compliance?

HOSPITAL PRICING SPECIALISTS

has you covered

Price Transparency Solutions

Thank you

We appreciate the opportunity to present to you with this learning guide to ensure you have a 100% compliant machine-readable file.

Rick Louie, Managing Director

rick@hospitalpricingspecialists.com

HOSPITAL
PRICING SPECIALISTS