

**APPENDIX 8:
 The Text Machine-Readable File Data Elements**

The Departments of the Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services (the Departments) have issued the Transparency in Coverage proposed rules, which would require group health plans and health insurance issuers in the individual and group markets (plans and issuers) to disclose certain pricing information. Under the final rules, at 26 CFR 54.9815-2715A3(b), 29 CFR 2590.715-2715A3(b), and 45 CFR 147.212(b), a plan or issuer must disclose a Text File in .txt format in the root folder of a plan’s or issuer’s website that includes the source page URL for the website that hosts the machine-readable files; a direct link to the URL for the machine-readable files; and point-of-contact information for the machine-readable files. The table below identifies data elements that a plan or issuer is required to include in each machine-readable Text File.¹

DATA ELEMENTS	DESCRIPTION
General Information	
Name of Reporting Entity ²	The legal name of the entity publishing the machine-readable file.
Source Page URL	Indicates the source page URL of the public webpage that hosts the machine-readable files (i.e., the webpage from which the machine-readable files can be directly downloaded).
Machine-readable file URLs	The URLs to each required machine-readable file.
Point of Contact Information	Information for the point of contact, including an up-to-date name, title, and email address for an individual who can address inquiries and issues related to the machine-readable files.

¹ For more technical implementation guidance for this machine-readable file, please see the GitHub website space established by the Departments. GitHub is a website and cloud-based service that helps developers store and manage their code, as well as to track and control changes to their code. The GitHub space offers the Departments the opportunity to collaborate with industry, including regulated entities, and third-party developers to ensure the file format is adapted for reporting of the required public disclosure data for various plan and contracting models. The GitHub space is available at: github.com/CMSgov/price-transparency-guide.

² A plan or issuer may contract with a third party (such as a third-party administrator, a health care claims clearinghouse, or a health insurance issuer that has contracted with a group health plan sponsor) to satisfy the disclosure requirements, subject to the requirements in the final rules.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1429. This information collection is necessary to implement the Transparency in Coverage requirements and to ensure that plans and issuers provide clear, accessible information identifying where their machine-readable files are hosted. The information will be used to improve transparency, facilitate oversight, and ensure that required pricing files can be easily located by consumers and stakeholders. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 38 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and review and complete the information collection. This information collection is mandatory for group health plans or health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage, as required under 26 CFR 54.9815-2715A3, 29 CFR 2590.715-2715A3, and 45 CFR 147.212. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.