

## 3M™ Connections Software

- Interfaces the 3M™ Coding and Reimbursement System with the major health information and EHR systems
- Interfaces the 3M™ Physician Coding and Reimbursement System with physician practice management and EHR systems
- Uses site-specific configuration files to meet your particular interface needs

### Taking a closer look

Today's healthcare computing environment demands that organizations connect many diverse information systems so that key data can be shared and used by multiple departments and facilities. Thanks to interfaces, data is interpreted from one computer system and translated into a format that is understood by another computer system.

Interfaces can help reduce duplicate data entry, allow ready access to necessary data, and provide additional data sets to a wide variety of departments and computer systems.

### The 3M solution: Better interfaces, improved efficiency

The **3M Connections Software** is used to transfer data from a health information system (HIS) or electronic health record (EHR) to the **3M Coding and Reimbursement System (CRS)**, and in turn transfers the coding, grouping, and reimbursement results from 3M CRS back to the HIS or EHR.

The 3M Connections Software is installed and configured as part of the installation of 3M CRS. Once data from 3M CRS is interfaced to another system—such as a billing system or HIS—you can quickly and effectively communicate coding, grouping, and reimbursement results.

### Available application and communication options

3M CRS is available as either a Microsoft® Windows®-based or a web-based application.

The 3M Connections Software has two interface communication options for the Microsoft Windows-based version of 3M CRS:

- Basic DLL
- TCP/IP

Both DLL and TCP/IP options support the 3M-proprietary tagged, HL7 or XML formats. While both options have traditionally been used to communicate with the Windows-based 3M coding system, they can also be used to communicate to the web-based version, too, by installing what is known as the Web Bridge. Web Bridge is an interface option that is installed and configured during the coding system installation. With **Web Bridge** installed, the interface call will initiate the web version of the 3M coding system with no interface changes required to the vendor's existing Microsoft Windows on this surface 3M™ Codefinder™ interface.

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## The simple approach: Basic DLL

This option is the simplest way to interface a Microsoft® Windows®-based system to the Windows-based 3M™ Coding and Reimbursement System (CRS). This option uses a set of function calls to 3M's Dynamic Link Library (DLL) and supports the 3M-proprietary tagged, HL7 and XML formats.

## 3M CRS web-to-web interface

JavaScript® and Java® applet are the two programming options available for communicating with 3M CRS for the Web. The web-to-web interface option supports the HL7 XML and XML formats.

## Platform independence: TCP/IP

The 3M Connections Software offers a TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) interface option that connects 3M CRS to another application using TCP/IP communications. This interface method is independent of both the operating system and hardware platform and supports the 3M-proprietary tagged, HL7 and XML formats.

## 3M-hosted development environment

3M now hosts the development environment for 3M interface vendor business partners who use the 3M Connections Software. The hosted environment helps business partners develop and test an interface, but does not affect or require changes to the end-user configuration.

The hosted environment includes:

- 3M software updates
- Current version of the product
- Test environment for pre-release testing

## How the interfaced coding system software works

Typically, 3M CRS is interfaced to the HIS or EHR system, and patient demographic information is passed from the HIS or EHR software to the coding system, so the coder does not have to enter the data. At the end of the coding process, the data generated during the coding session is passed back to the HIS or EHR system for storage in the patient record. The chart below describes the typical steps in this process.

System / Software / Data	Action / Activity
HIS or EHR system	The coder launches a coding session from within the HIS or EHR system.
Vendor interface component	The vendor interface creates an input packet. This packet often specifies the product and grouper to be used and contains demographic information.
Input packet to the 3M™ Coding and Reimbursement System	The vendor interface makes the appropriate call to the 3M Coding and Reimbursement System and passes the input packet.
3M Coding and Reimbursement System	The coder completes the coding session and groups the codes. An output packet is created.
Coding system output packet	The output packet is passed from the 3M Coding and Reimbursement System back to the vendor interface.
Vendor interface component	The vendor interface translates the coding system output packet and transfers the data back into the patient record in the HIS or EHR system.
HIS or EHR system	The coder is then taken back to the HIS or EHR system.

## Call today

For more information on how 3M solutions can assist your organization, contact your 3M sales representative, call us toll-free at **800-367-2447**, or visit us online at [www.3m.com/his](http://www.3m.com/his).



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