

meaning set forth in the applicable section of the United States Code for such health plan.

(2) For all other purposes, *State* means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

*Trading partner agreement* means an agreement related to the exchange of information in electronic transactions, whether the agreement is distinct or part of a larger agreement, between each party to the agreement. (For example, a trading partner agreement may specify, among other things, the duties and responsibilities of each party to the agreement in conducting a standard transaction.)

*Transaction* means the transmission of information between two parties to carry out financial or administrative activities related to health care. It includes the following types of information transmissions:

- (1) Health care claims or equivalent encounter information.
- (2) Health care payment and remittance advice.
- (3) Coordination of benefits.
- (4) Health care claim status.
- (5) Enrollment and disenrollment in a health plan.
- (6) Eligibility for a health plan.
- (7) Health plan premium payments.
- (8) Referral certification and authorization.
- (9) First report of injury.
- (10) Health claims attachments.
- (11) Other transactions that the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

*Use* means, with respect to individually identifiable health information, the sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of such information within an entity that maintains such information.

*Workforce* means employees, volunteers, trainees, and other persons whose conduct, in the performance of work for a covered entity, is under the direct control of such entity, whether or not they are paid by the covered entity.

[65 FR 82798, Dec. 28, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 38019, May 31, 2002; 67 FR 53266, Aug. 14, 2002; 68 FR 8374, Feb. 20, 2003]

**§ 160.104 Modifications.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the Secretary may adopt a modification to a standard or implementation specification adopted under this subchapter no more frequently than once every 12 months.

(b) The Secretary may adopt a modification at any time during the first year after the standard or implementation specification is initially adopted, if the Secretary determines that the modification is necessary to permit compliance with the standard or implementation specification.

(c) The Secretary will establish the compliance date for any standard or implementation specification modified under this section.

(1) The compliance date for a modification is no earlier than 180 days after the effective date of the final rule in which the Secretary adopts the modification.

(2) The Secretary may consider the extent of the modification and the time needed to comply with the modification in determining the compliance date for the modification.

(3) The Secretary may extend the compliance date for small health plans, as the Secretary determines is appropriate.

[65 FR 82798, Dec. 28, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 38019, May 31, 2002]

**Subpart B—Preemption of State Law**

**§ 160.201 Applicability.**

The provisions of this subpart implement section 1178 of the Act, as added by section 262 of Public Law 104-191.

**§ 160.202 Definitions.**

For purposes of this subpart, the following terms have the following meanings:

*Contrary*, when used to compare a provision of State law to a standard, requirement, or implementation specification adopted under this subchapter, means:

- (1) A covered entity would find it impossible to comply with both the State and federal requirements; or
- (2) The provision of State law stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment