



Minnesota Law Mandates Electronic Health Care Transactions in 2009

Minnesota State Statute, section 62J.536, requires all health care providers, payers, and group purchasers to exchange eligibility requirements, claims, and remittance advices electronically using a standard format.

Here is the first set of electronic transaction and effective dates:

<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Rule Promulgated</u>	<u>Rule in Effect</u>
Eligibility Inquiry and Response (270/271)	Jan. 12, 2008	Jan. 15, 2009

By standardizing and automating the **270/271**, electronic transactions will be more efficient, accurate, and inexpensive for health care providers and payers. These actions also will be less confusing for health care providers, who now will use a standard format when submitting **270** files to all payers.

Notify UCare of eligibility verifications

It is important to notify UCare if you intend to verify patient eligibility utilizing a 270/271 eligibility transaction. We prefer that you send us your contact information via e-mail directly to: 270271EligTrans@ucare.org.

Providers also may use the following methods to receive eligibility inquiries directly with UCare:

Access UCare

Access UCare offers several key features to help providers streamline business operations and gain quick and easy access to valuable information. For example, Access UCare enables providers to:

- Verify a member’s eligibility.
- View the status of a claim and/or referral/authorization.
- Locate participating providers.
- Download a monthly member roster (for primary care clinics only).

Access UCare registration is simple using the new “Access UCare Registration Form.” For more information and to register, log on to www.ucare.org. Then select “Providers,” “Access UCare,” and “Access UCare Registration Form.”

Interactive Voice Response System

UCare’s new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system provides a “self-service” way for providers to verify a member’s eligibility or check a status of a claim via a touch tone phone.

This convenient service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling the Provider Assistance Center line at **612-676-3300** or **1-888-531-1493 (toll free)**.

Note:

- For quick service of eligibility inquiries, be ready with the individual's date of birth and personal member identification (PMI) or UCare Member ID number.
- For quick service on claim status inquiries, be ready with the individual's claim date of service, your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, and the UCare Member ID number.

Electronic transactions readiness

Are you ready to comply and submit electronic transactions with UCare by the implementation dates for the health care claims and payment/remittance advice transactions? If not, please keep in mind that UCare encourages all providers to submit electronic data interchange (EDI) claims and receive electronic remittance advice (835) along with electronic funds transfer (EFT). **This mandate is particularly important to providers who currently submit and receive paper claim transactions.**

Here are the remaining electronic transactions for 2009:

<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Rule Promulgated</u>	<u>Rule in Effect</u>
Health care claim (837P, 837I, and NCPDP 5.1)	July 15, 2008	July 15, 2009
Payment/Remittance advice (835)	Dec. 1, 2008	Dec. 15, 2009

Additional resources

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) consulted with the Minnesota Uniformity Committee (AUC) to develop uniform standard companion guides for such transactions. These guides will standardize the process for checking eligibility, submitting claims, and receiving remittance advices in an electronic format for providers. In addition, guides have been developed for providers and payers to plan, program and accommodate these electronic transactions.

Please visit the AUC website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/>. It provides in-depth information regarding each electronic transaction, associated companion guides, and best practices.

Remember to continually visit UCare's web site at www.ucare.org for provider headlines, news and notes, and updates. Also, don't forget to subscribe to our E-mail List Server to receive provider news and updates, including *health lines*, via e-mail. To subscribe to the E-mail List Server, send an e-mail to ucareproviderupdate-subscribe@ucare.org and you automatically will be added to the list.

UCare's **Provider Assistance Center** is available at **612-676-3300** or **1-888-531-1493 (toll free)**, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., if you have any questions or concerns.