

Information for Health Care Providers Electronic Medical Billing (eBill)

Unless waived from the requirement, every health care provider is required to be able to electronically exchange medical billing data.

- Health care providers may apply to the TDI-DWC for a waiver if the implementation of electronic medical billing creates an unreasonable financial burden.
- Health care providers that employ 10 or fewer full time employees **and** workers' compensation constitutes less than 10% of their practice are exempt from the eBill requirements. Health care providers may submit small practice waiver requests with the TDI-DWC to be included on the waiver list posted on our web-site.

Where HIPAA standard transactions exist, the Texas eBill Companion Guides are aligned with those standards.

- Texas eBilling does have some "usage" differences, such as:
 - Date of injury is required;
 - Employer name, address, and FEIN (subscriber information) are required; and
 - State license number (secondary provider identifier) is required.
- A standard transaction for "attachments" has not yet been adopted under HIPAA. In Texas eBilling, required electronic medical documentation (attachments) may be sent by:
 - ANSI ASC X12 275 (version 4050);
 - Facsimile;
 - E-mail; or
 - Other mutually agreed upon electronic methods.

Insurance carriers are required to acknowledge receipt of electronic medical bills. Check with your practice management system vendor to ensure you can receive these acknowledgements.

- Some systems do not include the capability to display the electronic acknowledgments. These acknowledgements provide you confirmation that an insurance carrier has received your claim and provide information regarding data problems on rejected claims.
- If your clearinghouse "drops" the electronic claim to paper, the insurance carrier will not be able to send you an electronic acknowledgement.

Certain practice management systems have various components or edits that may prevent you from successfully submitting an electronic claim in the workers' compensation system. Check with your practice management system vendor to confirm your abilities or to make appropriate modifications.

- Some systems do not include the PWK (Paperwork) segment for claim supplemental information (Loop 2300) or require an upgrade to add this PWK module. This segment must be present in certain workers' compensation transactions when "attachments" are required to be sent with the claim.
- Some systems have implemented edits on the subscriber name (which is the employer in the workers' compensation system). These edits may prevent numeric characters or require a first name, which requires additional manual work by the health care provider before a claim can be electronically transmitted.

Many mainstream health care information clearinghouses are involved in Texas workers' compensation electronic medical billing. Check with your clearinghouse to ensure they are participating.

- Connectivity between various clearinghouses, including insurance carrier eBill agents, is steadily increasing. Each month, additional trading partner or data sharing agreements are being executed between these value-added networks.
- Your clearinghouse should be able to provide you with a list of payers to whom they can send an electronic medical bill. If they cannot provide you with a Payer Identification Number (Payer ID), it is unlikely that they will be able to successfully transmit data electronically to that particular payer.

System and transaction fees are not established by the TDI-DWC and vary from vendor to vendor. Health care providers should review the business value offered by individual vendor products to select the most appropriate solution for their business.

- Workers' compensation transaction processing may present a different cost than some health industry transactions. Several vendors have indicated that this difference is due to document management systems that must be used to handle electronic medical records.
- Product options can vary from web-based direct data entry programs to fully integrated solutions compatible with existing practice management systems.

Health care providers are not required to install or purchase duplicative systems in order to connect to workers' compensation payers.

- If a health care provider has a system that can successfully transmit an electronic medical bill through a clearinghouse to a workers' compensation payer, that health care provider is not required to install a second system to connect to different workers' compensation payers.
- As various eBill agents and clearinghouses execute trading partner or data sharing agreements, connectivity will increase.
- Health care providers should review whether or not their selected vendor or clearinghouse can electronically exchange data with their higher volume workers' compensation insurance carriers.