

# Minnesota Administrative Uniformity Committee – Strategic Steering Committee

Update: July – December 2011

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# Accomplishments

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- Contributed to national administrative simplification initiatives
  - Commented on the interim final rule for federal eligibility operating rules
  - Provided testimony to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)
- Provided input for two Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) studies
  - Uniform claims review process
  - Administrative simplification
- Developed and approved TAG products

# Accomplishments

## National initiatives

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- Federal eligibility operating rules
  - In September 2011, the AUC submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding “Administrative Simplification: Adoption of Operating Rules for Eligibility for a Health Plan and Health Care Claim Status Transactions (CMS-0032-IFC)”. In its comments, the AUC:
    - Offered its support for the Eligibility for a Health Plan operating rules and provided recommendations to take fullest advantage of the transaction’s capabilities
    - Communicated several concerns and recommendations regarding maintenance and modifications to transaction standards and operating rules
    - Supported the adoption of acknowledgment transactions requirements
  - The comments have been posted to the [AUC](#) and [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) websites

# Accomplishments

## National initiatives

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- NCVHS testimony
  - The AUC provided testimony to NCVHS for consideration during its November 2011 meeting regarding:
    - Enrollment of health care providers by health plans
    - Standardized claim coding
    - Claims attachments
    - Applicability of standards to other insurance types
    - The need for a single overarching umbrella organization to manage standards and operating rule maintenance/modifications
  - The comments have been posted to the [AUC](#) and [NCVHS](#) websites under “Public Comment View Handout #3”

# Accomplishments

## MDH studies

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- Uniform Claims Review Process
  - Pursuant to Chapter 358, Article 4, Section 13, of the Laws of Minnesota for 2008, MDH is to submit a report to the Commissioner of Health
    - The first part of the study explores the “potential for reducing claims adjudication costs of health care providers and health plan companies”
    - The second part of the study examines the “potential impact of establishing uniform prices that would replace current prices negotiated individually by providers with separate payers”
  - MDH anticipates publishing the study in early 2012

Note: The study was largely undertaken during 2008 and 2009, and data gathering was completed in late 2011. The study was originally planned for completion during 2010; however, it was delayed due to several factors, including competing demands on stakeholders and staff from significant federal and state health care administrative simplification and health reform regulations, and the subsequent impacts of a state hiring freeze and government shutdown.

# Accomplishments

## MDH studies

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- Administrative simplification
  - Pursuant to the Laws of Minnesota for 2009, Chapter 155, Section 1, MDH—in collaboration with the Department of Human Services and the AUC—is to submit a report to the state legislature
    - The study explores the feasibility of and barriers to simplifying health care administrative transactions through electronic data interchange
  - MDH anticipates publishing the study in early 2012

Note: The study was largely undertaken during 2009 and 2010, and data gathering was completed in late 2011. The study was originally planned for completion during 2010; however, it was delayed due to several factors, including competing demands on stakeholders and staff from significant federal and state health care administrative simplification and health reform regulations, and the subsequent impacts of a state hiring freeze and government shutdown.

# Accomplishments TAG products

TAG	Products
Communications/ Policy/Membership	Updated three policies Developed an online TAG attendance tracker tool and dispensed training
Claims Data Definition	Developed a best practice that illustrates examples for NTE and PWK usage
Eligibility	Reviewed the interim final rule for federal eligibility operating rules and developed comments that were submitted to HHS
Explanation of Benefits/Remittance Advice	Reviewed the ASC X12 TR2 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice Code Usage Rules and developed comments that were submitted to ASC X12
Long Term Care	Developed a best practice for the uniform dataset that is to be provided for skilled nursing facility admissions <i>*For the time being, the Long Term Care TAG has been sunsetted as it has met its charge with the issuance of the aforementioned best practice</i>
Medical Code	Developed four coding recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birthing centers</li> <li>• Licensed traditional midwives</li> <li>• Mental health diagnostic assessment</li> <li>• Dialectical behavior therapy</li> </ul>

Note: All products were approved by the AUC Operations Committee and were posted to the [AUC website](#).

# Anticipated work

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- Contribute to national administrative simplification initiatives
  - Draft ASC X12 6020 implementation guides
  - Electronic funds transfer (EFT)/Electronic remittance advice (ERA) federal operating rules
- Maintenance of 5010 Minnesota Uniform Companion Guides

# Anticipated work

## National initiatives

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- 6020 review and comment
  - The Claims Data Definition, Explanation of Benefits/Remittance Advice, and Eligibility TAGs; the AUC; and MDH will collaborate to review the draft ASC X12 6020 implementation guides to determine
    - Whether the AUC will submit comments to ASC X12 by March 7, 2012
    - What, if any, implications, there are for Minnesota's administrative simplification efforts

# Anticipated work

## National initiatives

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- EFT/ERA operating rules review and comment
  - HHS is to announce its adoption of EFT/ERA operating rules by July 1, 2012
  - The Explanation of Benefits/Remittance Advice TAG, the AUC, and MDH will collaborate to review the operating rules and determine
    - Whether the AUC will submit comments to HHS
    - What, if any, implications, there are for Minnesota's administrative simplification efforts

# Anticipated work

## 5010 maintenance

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- 5010 maintenance and updates
  - Determine the implications of federal eligibility operating rules that were adopted on June 30, 2011 for Minnesota's administrative simplification efforts
    - The Eligibility TAG, the AUC, and MDH will collaborate to review the Eligibility Minnesota Uniform Companion Guide and associated best practices, and determine whether any modifications are needed
  - Review all Minnesota Uniform Companion Guides to identify what, if any, content should be modified

# Leadership

Committee/TAG	2012 Co-chairs	2011 Outgoing Co-chairs
Operations & Executive	Laurie Darst & Beth Stanley (Mayo Clinic) Shelagh Kalland [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSMN)]	Paige Hinz (Medica)
Communications/ Policy/Membership	Steve Kimmel (Fairview Pharmacy Services) *Co-chair needed	Leann Ottomeyer (Minnesota Chiropractic Association)
Acknowledgments	*Co-chairs needed	Shelagh Kalland (BCBSMN)
Claims Data Definition --Pharmacy Workgroup	*Co-chairs needed --Marilyn Eelkema (HealthPartners) --Laura Linroth [Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)]	Carolyn Anderson (Mayo Clinic) --N/A
Eligibility	Mary Hall (Medica) Ed Stroot (PreferredOne)	N/A
Explanation of Benefits/Remittance Advice	Pete Anderson (UnitedHealth Group Information Technologies) Lisa Wichterman (Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry)	N/A
Medical Code	Faith Bauer (BCBSMN) *Co-chair needed	Gail Cain (Fairview Health Services) Barb Hollerung (DHS)
Legislative	Kathryn Kmit (Minnesota Council of Health Plans) Joe Schindler (Minnesota Hospital Association)	N/A
Two-digit Program Code	Trisha Schirmers (Allina)	N/A

# Questions/feedback?

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- Contact your AUC Operations member
- Contact AUC Co-chairs
  - Laurie Darst, 507-266-3054, [darst.laura@mayo.edu](mailto:darst.laura@mayo.edu)
  - Beth Stanley, 507-284-3134, [stanley.elizabeth@mayo.edu](mailto:stanley.elizabeth@mayo.edu)
  - Shelagh Kalland, 651-662-2750, [Shelagh M Kalland@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:Shelagh_M_Kalland@bluecrossmn.com)
- Contact the AUC via email, [health.AUC@state.mn.us](mailto:health.AUC@state.mn.us)

Thank you for your interest and support!