

Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC)

Mission

The mission of the Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC) is to develop agreement among Minnesota payers and providers on standardized administrative processes when implementation of the processes will reduce administrative costs.

History

The Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC) is a voluntary, broad-based group representing Minnesota health care public and private payers, hospitals, physicians, other providers and State agencies. The impetus for its establishment came from the Minnesota Council of Health Plans, whose member plans committed in 1991 to standardize their administrative processes and requirements with the goal of reducing administrative costs for both payers and providers. Recognizing that costs can be reduced effectively only if all major stakeholders are involved, the Council's committee sought the endorsement and active participation of other payers, state agencies, and representatives of key provider groups. By mid-1992, virtually all groups contacted had offered their enthusiastic support and had named representatives to the committee. Although the AUC originally reported to the Minnesota Council of Health Plans, the AUC no longer formally reports to any organization, although it may from time to time act as a consulting body to various public and private entities.

Statutory Authority

The Commissioner of Health has statutory authority for the Administrative Simplification Act (ASA), *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 62J.50 – 62J.61. The Minnesota State Legislature and the ASA specifically mention the AUC in regards to advising the Commissioner of Health on administrative simplification issues such as developing billing manuals adopted as Minnesota Rule. The ASA has been in place since 1994. There is

no specific enforcement authority in the ASA. The AUC seeks to gain voluntary compliance with ASA statutes.

The ASA calls for and the AUC has worked on:

- uniform electronic data interchange standards. The AUC is known as a nationwide leader on providing comprehensive industry comments on federal HIPAA rules;
- standard paper billing and provider remittance advice forms, patient explanation of benefits forms and standard instruction manuals for how these forms are to be completed. A Minnesota billing manual was a model for a national billing manual. The AUC was thanked for their leadership in this area;
- national unique identifiers for providers, payers and patients. The AUC has developed a plan to adopt the required national identifiers; and
- standard patient identification card. The AUC developed a standard for patient identification cards.

The AUC has traditionally not worked on issues of reimbursement, payer and provider contract issues or coding requirements.

Purpose and Objectives of the AUC

The purpose and objectives of the AUC are to:

- develop agreement among MN payers and providers regarding uniform billing forms, uniform claims procedures, and uniform electronic billing procedures;
- participate actively in the implementation of standards;
- function as a consulting body on matters related to the AUC's mission statement; and



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- research issues that may lead to enhanced administrative uniformity and bring recommendations to private industry and/or governmental entities.

Voting Members:

Allina Hospitals and Clinics
Trisha Schirmers, Barb Ball

American Association of Healthcare
Administrative Management (AAHAM)
Lois Wakefield, Allina Hospitals and Clinics

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN
Kelly Friedges, Nancy Kramer

Delta Dental Plan of MN
Jan Sheedy

Children's Hospitals and Clinics
Becky Woitalewicz

Fairview Hospitals and Health Care Services
Stephanie McDonald

HealthEast
Sue Lanigan

HealthPartners
Donna Koran

Hennepin County Medical Center
Tom Poe

Hennepin Faculty Associates
JoAnn Yohn

Mayo Clinic
Laurie Darst

Medica Health Plan
Yvette Walton

Metropolitan Health Plan
Bruce Wegner, Kirk Jensen

Minnesota Dental Association
Loren Hanson

Minnesota Department of Health
Kristin Loncorich

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Stacey Alsdurf, Jayne Draves

Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry
Julie Marquardt

Minnesota Hospital Association
Joe Schindler

Minnesota Medical Association
Janet Silversmith

Minnesota Medical Group Management Assoc
John Whisney

Minnesota Pharmacist Association
Julie Johnson

Noridian – Medicare Part A
No representative at this time

Park Nicollet Health Services
Gayle Galarneau

PreferredOne
Ed Stroot

St. Mary's Duluth Clinic
Gretchen Thomson

UCare Minnesota
Mark Newinski

WI Physician Services – Medicare Part B
Rita Hobot

University of Minnesota Physicians
No representative at this time

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