AUC Update

The AUC Update is published monthly and provides news and updates regarding the Minnesota Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC) and Minnesota's health care administrative simplification initiative pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 62J.536 and related federal and state regulations. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) administers MS §62J.536 and publishes this newsletter in association with the AUC.

More information about the AUC is available at: AUC home page.

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AUC reviews health plan certification NPRM

On January 2, 2014, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM, announcing a

proposed rule requiring that health plans must certify that their data and information systems comply with federally adopted standards and associated operating rules. The proposed rule describes information and documentation that must be submitted by health plans to meet the certification requirements, and establishes and clarifies penalty fees for failure to comply. The NPRM also announced the start of a public comment period on the proposed rule, with comments due by March 3, 2014.

The AUC Operations committee teleconferenced on January 14, 2014 to begin reviewing the NPRM in preparation for submitting a possible comment regarding the proposed rule. The AUC reviewed key provisions of the proposed rule, approved a preliminary timeline and work plan for developing a possible response by the stated deadline, and began discussing the rule in greater detail. A meeting summary and related information is available on the AUC Operations meeting information website page.

The **AUC also agreed on the following next steps to complete its review and submission of any comments**:

1. A second follow-up teleconference is planned for 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Thursday, February 6. Prior to the teleconference, MDH staff will prepare a "straw-man" draft AUC comment to submit to HHS regarding the NPRM, to discuss on February 6. The draft will be based on discussion from the January 14 teleconference and any additional feedback submitted to staff by January 24 (see next item below). The goal of the teleconference on February 6 will be to finalize an AUC comment to HHS if possible. Additional information about the February 6 AUC teleconference will be posted on the AUC Operations meeting information site

(http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/infoops.htm).

2. AUC members are asked to please review and discuss the NPRM as needed in your organizations and with others. Members are also asked to submit comments, questions, discussion items, etc. regarding the NPRM by 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 24, to MDH staff (david.haugen@state.mn.us or judy.edwards@state.mn.us). As noted above, MDH staff will compile any feedback received by January 24 to review at the February 6 teleconference.

3. AUC members should note that other national organizations, including the Workgroup on Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) and the Committee for Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE), are also reviewing the NPRM and developing comments. For more information about opportunities to comment through these organizations, please see the CORE certification website and/or the WEDI Policy Advisory Group website.

A copy of the NPRM is available on the Federal Register website.

Countdown to ICD-10 continues; ICD-10 information and resources added to AUC website

As of the publication date of this newsletter, requirements to comply with ICD-10 coding on October 1, 2014 are only 251 days away. Despite

the ticking of the clock, several recent national surveys show that the industry lags behind in its ICD-10 readiness. For example, the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) recently reported that "It is clear the industry continues to make slow progress, but not the amount of progress that is needed for a smooth transition," and that "Unless all segments move quickly forward with their implementation efforts, there will be significant disruption on Oct 1, 2014" (See WEDI press release and WEDI survey results summary).

In order to provide information and updates to help the transition to ICD-10, the AUC website is expanding to include links to resources from the Minnesota ICD-10 Collaborative and other sources. Look for navigational links on the AUC home page for new ICD-10 topics and updates coming soon.
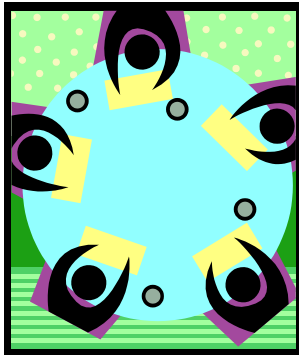
AUC change request to X12 advancing

The national standards setting organization ASC X12 has added an AUC change request to agenda items to be taken up at the organization's annual meeting next week in Birmingham, Alabama. As reported in the November 2013 AUC Update, MDH submitted the change request on behalf of the AUC to X12, requesting that particular capabilities in the claims transaction for reporting taxes be continued in future versions of the transaction. The request is needed to adequately report Minnesota's provider gross revenue tax known as the "MinnesotaCare" tax, which differs from a sales tax, and for reporting other provider taxes in other states.

An X12 work group previously discussed the AUC change request and recently announced that it will also be a subject of discussion at the X12 annual meeting next week in Birmingham.

AUC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Updates

For additional information about AUC TAGs and their activities, please see the TAG page at AUC TAG page. TAG meetings are open, public meetings, and are generally conducted via teleconference rather

than in-person. Meeting agendas and other materials are posted on the AUC website in advance. Information about upcoming TAG meetings is available by going to the AUC calendar page at: AUC Calendar.

AUC Executive Committee

The AUC Executive Committee met on January 6, 2014. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Review and discussion of the "SBAR" form and process by which coding or other questions can be submitted to be addressed by the AUC. It was agreed that the process could be streamlined to allow SBARs received by MDH staff to be forwarded simultaneously to the Executive Committee and to the AUC TAG most likely to be reviewing and addressing the SBAR. The SBAR form will be modified slightly to account for the change in procedure.

- Review and discussion of a draft AUC process and timeline for developing possible comments regarding the recently published HHS NPRM for health plan certification (see also the lead story in this month's newsletter). The Committee agreed to a proposed timeline and other introductory and summary materials for discussion at the AUC NPRM review meeting on January 14, 2014.

- Review and discussion of key AUC assignments and tasks for 2014. The Executive Committee noted several upcoming and recent deadlines of interest to the AUC, and for subsequent additional planning and AUC meeting agendas, including:

- January 1, 2014 – Effective date for federal EFT and ERA operating rules;

- March 3, 2014 – Response deadline for any comments regarding HHS health plan certification NPRM;

- June 2014 – Possible target deadline for completing any annual companion guide maintenance;

- October 1, 2014 -- ICD-10 must be used for all dates of service on or after 10/1/14; and

- November 5, 2014 – Health plans (other than small health plans) must be enumerated pursuant to federal Health Plan ID (HPID) rules no later than November 5, 2014.

Medical Code TAG (MCT)

The MCT met on January 9, 2014. The TAG:

- Discussed how its work products are made available and can be used in practice. In future meetings the TAG will discuss clearer criteria to help determine where TAG findings and recommendations should be located (ranging for example from meeting minutes, to the current Coding Clarification Grid, to being incorporated in companion guides). The TAG will be also be working with MDH staff to create a "coding issues index" for more easily indexing and accessing TAG recommendations and information.

- Reviewed and discussed SBARs seeking recommendations regarding the use and applicability of particular codes, including the code series 99441-99443, 99446-99449, and the G0463 code. The G0463 code issue was tabled pending obtaining further information about the issue, and the other coding issues also remain open at this time pending additional discussion.

- Refined a "decision tree" document to aid in reviewing issues and making recommendations. The MCT agreed to refinements to a document describing a series of steps to be used and questions to be addressed to ensure that the

TAG process for reviewing coding issues and making recommendations is transparent, consistent, and thorough. The decision tree will be posted on the MCT web page, and will be used in TAG meetings. It will also be available on the AUC forms web page in the near future.

- Received information regarding a workshop being hosted by the St. Paul chapter of the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) on ICD-10-CM plus ICD-10-PCS Training. The training will be held 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Saturday, March 1, 2014 at the Roseville Radisson Hotel (just a few blocks from Rosedale Mall). For additional information regarding the training, including costs, registration and other information, please contact Carolyn Larson, Carolyn.Larson@PreferredOne.com, or 763-847-3561.

Upcoming AUC TAG and committee meetings

Meeting information, including meeting materials and minutes, as well as log-on instructions for virtual meetings and webinars, is available from the online AUC calendar. Upcoming AUC TAG and committee meetings in February include:

- **February 3**, 8:30 am - 10:30 am, **AUC Executive Committee** (Teleconference & WebEx only)

- **February 5**, 9:00 am - 10:30 am **Claims Data Definition TAG** (Teleconference & WebEx only)

- **February 6**, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm **Operations Committee** Meeting for NPRM Review (Teleconference & WebEx only)

- **February 13**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm **Medical Code TAG**, HealthPartners-Bloomington, 8170 Building, Minnesota Room - 1st Floor

- **February 18**, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm **EOB Remit TAG** (Teleconference & WebEx only)

- **February 26**, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Eligibility TAG** (Teleconference & WebEx only)

National Industry News

CMS eHealth Summit on ICD-10 to be held February 14, 2014

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced as part of an ongoing series of "eHealth summits" a meeting on ICD-10. The meeting will be held via webcast and in person at the CMS Headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET Friday, February 14, 2014. At the meeting, "health industry thought leaders will share their perspectives on preparing for the October 1, 2014 ICD-10 compliance date. Panels will include health care providers, payers, vendors, and representatives from their trade associations, who will discuss best practices and address potential challenges." More information, including a link to registration instructions for the in-person meeting and the webinar, is available at CMS 2/14/14 summit web page.

WEDI "Next Generation of Healthcare Information Exchange" January 27, 2014

WEDI has announced a free webinar, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., on January 27, 2014 entitled "10 Key Recommendations that will Shape the Next Generation of Healthcare Information Exchange." The webinar will review four future critical areas of focus that were the subject of a recent special WEDI task force and report, including:

- Patient Engagement: consumer (patient) engagement through improved access to pertinent healthcare information;

- Payment Models: Business, information, and data exchange requirements that will help enable payment models as they emerge;

- Data Harmonization and Exchange: Alignment of administrative and clinical information capture, linkage, and exchange; and

- Innovative Encounter Models: Business and use cases for innovative encounter models that use existing and emergent technologies.

The AUC has identified payment models as an area of interest for 2014, and the webinar also addresses issues of harmonizing administrative and clinical data exchange.

For more information and webinar registration instructions, see the WEDI webinar web page.