



BlueCross BlueShield of Central New York
BlueCross BlueShield of the Rochester Area
BlueCross BlueShield of Utica-Watertown
EXCELLUS COMPANIES

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February 10, 2003

TO: Vendors, Billings Services, Clearinghouses

FROM: Trading Partners Support

SUBJECT: Clearinghouse Testing of HIPAA-Compliant ANSI 837 Transactions

Our clearinghouse will begin testing the HIPAA-compliant ANSI 837 professional and institutional claim formats on Feb. 18, 2003. We have enclosed the following documentation that you will need in order to prepare for testing with the clearinghouse.

- **General Rules** - General information regarding the 837 transaction with the clearinghouse
- **Test Situations, Professional and Institutional** - Each vendor is responsible for submitting each test scenario applicable to your provider clientele.
- **ASC x12 syntax editing for the generation of the HIPAA compliant V4010 997 data interchange** - Syntax editing for the 997 data interchange at the clearinghouse
- **Trading Partner Agreements, Professional and Institutional** – Identify the valid values and requirements specific to the clearinghouse
- **HIPAA EDI Trading Partner Companion Document** – Explains HIPAA compliance and indicates that the trading partner agreement is a supplement to the HIPAA ANSI x12 837 implementation guide.
- **Submitting Test Files** - Outlines the testing process for the clearinghouse. This document provides the security information needed to send a test file, explains the reports, and identifies the test criteria required for consideration of production submissions.

Trading Partner Support will be contacting each vendor, billing service, and clearinghouse to obtain a testing plan date for the ANSI 837 transaction. There must be active testing by each vendor, billing service, and clearinghouse **by July 1, 2003**.

If you submit to more than one plan through our clearinghouse, you must submit a test file for each region.

All providers must be HIPAA compliant on the 837 transaction before Oct. 16, 2003. The clearinghouse cannot accept any claims in UB or NSF format after Oct.15, 2003.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact Trading Partner Support at one of the following numbers:

Rochester: (585) 238-4618 or (877) 843-8520
Syracuse: (315) 448-4927
Utica: (315) 798-4236 or (800) 872-4570