

## The Oct. 16 Deadline Has Passed Are Your Claims Compliant?

### Short-term Grace Period Announced for HIPAA Compliance

Michigan Medicaid is providing a short-term grace period for providers that are not yet ready to submit HIPAA compliant transactions. This action is part of its contingency plan to ensure that Medicaid providers do not suffer payment disruption during this conversion period. Medicaid's contingency plan is part of a coordinated outreach effort with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and Medicare. Download press releases from [BCBSM](#), [Medicare](#), and [MDCH\(L03-26\)](#).

In the meantime, non-HIPAA compliant Medicaid providers should: 1) Use the new codes. The [new codes and code sets](#) took effect October 1, 2003 and apply to all Medicaid providers regardless of format. 2) Test, test and re-test. If you haven't begun B2B testing, take advantage of this grace period and start testing immediately. 3) Convert to HIPAA compliant transactions. This short term grace period will not last.

### IS YOUR VENDOR APPROVED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS ELECTRONICALLY WITH BCBSM, MEDICARE & MEDICAID?

You and your vendors should be working towards becoming HIPAA compliant as quickly as possible to make sure your cash flow is not interrupted. Review the most recent [Approved Vendor List](#) for Medicaid, BCBSM or Medicare. If your billing service is not on our approved

vendor list you may not get paid. Is your vendor on the list? If not, call them to determine where they are in the approval process ... or consider a new vendor. Medicaid also has a list of ["Questions to Ask Your Vendors."](#) Have your vendor fill it out and fax it back immediately.

#### Medicaid Policy Changes in Effect October 1, 2003

All updated Policy Bulletins went into effect October 1, 2003. Visit the MDCH web site and direct-link to the new [Medicaid Policy Bulletins](#).

#### Sign up to Receive Proposed Policy Changes

Stay in touch with Medicaid Policy. [Sign up for Bulletins](#) directly from MDCH by accessing the Medicaid Policy page on the MDCH web site.

#### Subscribe to E-Mail Updates from Michigan Medicaid!

Stay in touch with late breaking news, information and training opportunities from Michigan Medicaid. [Subscribe to E-mail Updates now.](#)

### MDCH Online Resources:

You will benefit greatly from the latest available information regarding HIPAA Transactions, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and how to conduct business electronically with Michigan Medicaid. Keep visiting the MDCH web site and the mihealth.org web sites for more details about HIPAA, electronic billing, and EFT.

- [MDCH: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch)
- [Michigan Virtual University: http://www.healthcare.mivu.org](http://www.healthcare.mivu.org)
- [MiHealth.org: http://www.mihealth.org/hipaa](http://www.mihealth.org/hipaa)

#### What You Must Do Now to Keep the Cash Flowing

Avoid claim payment interruption. HIPAA transactions are your responsibility — regardless of who submits your claims. [Medicaid's Practitioner Program](#) will tell you what action steps you must take now to keep getting paid.

### NOT SURE WHAT TO DO ABOUT HIPAA TRANSACTIONS?

If you are still fuzzy about HIPAA Transactions, MDCH has created an informative presentation to walk you through the process. Click here to view the presentation: [HIPAA Transactions – What You Must Do Now to Get Paid This November](#).

### Comprehensive Information:

#### Michigan Medicaid

[www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch)

(click on Providers, then HIPAA, then select Implementation Materials)  
1-800-292-2550

[providersupport@michigan.gov](mailto:providersupport@michigan.gov)

#### Medicaid Claims Testing:

Jim Kunz at [kunzj@michigan.gov](mailto:kunzj@michigan.gov)

#### Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

[www.bcbsm.com/providers/hipacentral.shtml](http://www.bcbsm.com/providers/hipacentral.shtml) (select HIPAA Central)

#### BCBSM Help Desk:

Telephone: 248-486-2292  
Trading Partner Agreement (press 2)  
EDI Testing (press 3)  
Help Desk Analyst (press 6)

#### Medicare A

[ugsmedicare.com](http://ugsmedicare.com)

#### Medicare B

[www-ss.wpsic.com/medicare\\_web](http://www-ss.wpsic.com/medicare_web)

Michigan Department  
of Community Health

