

IAIABC
Interaction with Designated Standards Maintenance Organizations
April 25, 2009

As the premier national organization for dealing with workers' compensation administration and issues, the IAIABC should have responsibility for ensuring the development of a national standard for workers' compensation medical billing and payment (eBill) transactions from providers to payers. The IAIABC EDI Council approved this development plan in March 2006.

This development plan includes all coordination with non-IAIABC committees, which include, but are not limited to, the WEDI Workers' Compensation Workgroup, SeBIN, Minnesota AUC, X12, NUCC, NUBC, ADA, HL7, and NCPDP and any others needed to resolve eBill issues.

The IAIABC is the best source for subject matter expertise about regulatory reporting for Medical, First Report of Injury (FROI), Subsequent Report of Injury (SROI), Proof of Coverage (POC) and other workers' compensation areas. The IAIABC has built its national EDI standards for these transactions in flat file format. XML work for FROI, SROI, and POC reporting is in development and is being done in collaboration with ACORD. The use of each of these report types is confined to the flow of information between claim administrators and jurisdictions.

The IAIABC has participated with X12 for many years concerning workers' compensation state medical reporting. The required involvement of X12 for reporting medical bill payments to jurisdictions is minimal in comparison to the involvement required for eBill, which covers the medical providers' requirements for submitting workers' compensation bills to the bill payers. Furthermore, while the intent of X12 eBill should be to align, as much as possible, with HIPAA for implementation version and data element usage, state medical reporting could actually be impacted negatively by following the X12 HIPAA requirements too closely. For strong business reasons, workers' compensation is specifically statutorily exempt from HIPAA regulations.

The eBill initiative necessitates provider and provider vendor participation, players that have traditionally been outside the current IAIABC scope. The X12 and WEDI organizations have current provider and provider vendor participation due to HIPAA mandates. For this reason, it is important that the IAIABC and these organizations maintain a relationship to establish and maintain a national standard for workers' compensation e-billing that will work for providers and their vendors.

The technical expertise of the X12 and WEDI organizations for mapping, gap analysis and resolution, companion guide creation, and distribution will assist the IAIABC in resolving the more challenging technical issues that arise.

Collaboration and cooperation between X12, WEDI, the Designated Standard Maintenance Organizations and the IAIABC are critically important to maintaining a smooth work process to develop and maintain national standards for workers' compensation e-bill reporting.

Recommendations

- The IAIABC should clearly establish its role as the workers' compensation subject matter experts in the development of business requirements, technical solutions, document companion guides, and other workers' compensation related information through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with external groups who are the technical subject matter experts for medical e-billing.
- The IAIABC should work with external organizations for distribution of implementation guides, companion guides, etc.,
- The IAIABC should assert its leadership in developing a consensus of opinion among its members concerning the business needs for national eBill standards within the context of workers' compensation.
- The IAIABC should provide a formal liaison to all outside groups with which it establishes an MOU, including X12, WEDI, NUCC, NUBC, ADA, HL7, NCPDP and any other committees identified as process partners. Each of these organizations will also provide a formal liaison to the IAIABC.
- The IAIABC should document workers' compensation business needs and proposed solutions to X12, WEDI, and the other Designated Standard Maintenance Organizations for technical review and feedback. Communicating this needs statement should be the responsibility of the respective liaisons for each organization. A process should be established in the corresponding MOU with each organization outlining how the work will flow between the two organizations.
- IAIABC liaisons with outside standard organizations, including X12 , WEDI, NUCC, NUBC, ADA, HL7, NCPDP and any other committees identified as process partners, should be charged with ensuring that any business and technical needs that may impact workers' compensation in any way are routed to the IAIABC for appropriate review, resolution, and approval.
- All MOUs described above should declare that any action that may impact workers' compensation activities performed by entities without IAIABC review and approval will not be recognized or supported by the IAIABC.