

AUC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, December 8, 2015

In the notes below, the Operations Committee is often referred to simply as “Ops.”

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action Item |
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| 1. Meeting to order – Ann Hale, co-chair | Ann Hale convened the meeting. | |
| 2. Anti-trust statement: http://www.health.state.mn.us/auc/pdfs/anti-trust.pdf | Ann Hale reminded the group that meeting would follow the AUC anti-trust guidelines, which are available on the AUC website. | |
| 3. Introductions - Please e-mail your attendance to health.auc@state.mn.us | Attendance was taken in order to determine whether a quorum was present. No quorum was present. | |
| 4. Review and approve minutes from the last meeting | Ann asked if there were corrections or comments to the minutes from the September 8 meeting. There were no corrections or comments. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff will email a request to Ops to approve the minutes via an email vote. | MDH staff will send out the minutes for an email vote. |
| 5. Public comment on rulemaking process used for companion guides | Dave Haugen of MDH began a presentation with information and updates regarding several agenda items, starting with statutory requirements for a biennial report on the rulemaking process used for developing and updating the Minnesota Uniform Companion Guide rules. He explained the rulemaking process, and noted that it was abbreviated and accelerated compared with other forms of rulemaking, to ensure that the rules could be developed or updated as needed to respond quickly to market changes and/or changes in other laws. In exchange for rulemaking flexibility, Minnesota law requires that MDH review the rulemaking process biennially with opportunities for public comment. MDH is required to submit a report with comments | MDH staff will send out a proposed AUC comment regarding the current rulemaking process for companion guides for an email vote. |

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| | <p>received to the AUC by January 15 of each even numbered year. A notice of the opportunity for public comment regarding the companion guide rulemaking process and the quality and effectiveness of rules adopted under the process was published in the Minnesota State Register on November 23, 2015. The 30-day comment period ends December 22, 2015, and there is opportunity to provide testimony in person at MDH from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22.</p> <p>Following email discussion of the reporting requirement with the AUC Executive Committee, Ann Hale prepared a comment on behalf of the AUC to submit during the public comment period. Dave Haugen presented the proposed comment, which stated that the AUC supports the current rulemaking process and recommends that it be continued. Ann asked if there are any changes to the comment; no changes or additions were offered. The comment will be sent out for an Ops email vote and if approved will be submitted to MDH.</p> | |
| <p>6. Approve Dave Anderson as co-chair elect</p> | <p>Dave Haugen continued his presentation of agenda items by discussing annual changes in AUC Ops leadership roles. He explained that those in leadership positions serve three year terms, starting with co-chair elect the first year, moving co-chair the second year, and then to immediate past co-chair the final year. The positions also alternate annually between payers and providers.</p> <p>Under this arrangement, the following changes will take place for 2016: Ann Hale/Cherie Nauha's role as co-chair will change from co-chairs to immediate past co-chairs; Tony Rinkenberger served as co-chair elect in 2015 and will serve as the provider co-chair for 2016; Dave Andersen volunteered to serve as payer co-chair elect for 2016. His appointment as co-chair elect must be approved by Ops and an email vote will be conducted to approve the appointment.</p> | <p>MDH staff will send out a request for AUC Operations to approve Dave Anderson via an email vote as co-chair-elect for 2016.</p> |
| <p>7. Approve continued exception from eligibility requirements for entities not covered by HIPAA</p> | <p>Dave Haugen noted that Minnesota statues, section 62J.536, authorizes annually renewable exceptions to requirements for the standard, electronic exchange of health care business transactions if the transaction does not meet business needs or if there is another, more appropriate transaction that can be used. This limited exception applies to all payers not subject to federal HIPAA regulations, and has been granted to date only for the eligibility inquiry and response transaction (270/271). The Eligibility TAG recently reviewed and approved the continued narrow exception for only the 270/271 transaction, for entities not subject to HIPAA, for only 2016. The TAG's recommendation must be approved by AUC Operations and then forwarded to MDH for</p> | <p>MDH staff will send out a request for an AUC operations email vote to approve the continued exception authorized in MS 62J.536.</p> |

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| | <p>consideration. MDH will conduct an email vote for Ops' approval of the TAG's recommendation.</p> <p>In addition, in discussion a suggestion was made to ask the Eligibility TAG to consider the changes that may be needed so that the 270/271 transaction met the business needs of entities not subject to HIPAA, and to submit a request to the national standards setting organization, X12, to add any needed data elements to the transaction. Ann Hale will have Eligibility consider preparing a request to X12.</p> | |
| <p>8. TAG updates (co-chairs)</p> | <p>Dave Haugen recommended Ops review the AUC monthly newsletter in order to stay abreast of the TAG activity.</p> <p>Katherine Kmit, co-chair Home Health Prior Authorization (PA) Form TAG, reported that she and Kathy Messerli (Home Care Association) worked together to develop a universal home care prior authorization (PA) form that everyone could accept and the home care providers would find easy to use. The draft form and instructions were reviewed by TAG members. Kathryn plans to seek TAG final approval of the form. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) asked for clarification regarding the development of the form and its use for prior authorization for PCA services. Kathryn clarified that the form is for home care services for commercial/private payers and not DHS, and that the form is not for prior authorization of PCA services.</p> <p>Pete Anderson reported that the Remit TAG December meeting was cancelled. The TAG will meet on Tuesday, January 19.</p> <p>The ACO Data Analytics TAG met first time in November and will meet again December 16.</p> <p>Ann Hale thanked TAG co-chairs and members for their work this year, and noted that the AUC's accomplishments would not be possible without the ongoing work at the TAG level.</p> | <p>Kathryn Kmit will conduct a TAG vote to approve the form and instructions and then forward to full AUC for approval.</p> |
| <p>9. 2015 Accomplishments, 2016 planning</p> | <p>Dave Haugen presented a brief review of the AUC's 2015 activities and accomplishments, as well as a 2016 AUC planning update. He noted that in 2015 the AUC conducted more than 50 meetings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update companion guides and best practices; | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • form two temporary TAGs and begin new work on a home care PA form and standardization of ACO member data; • submit comments, responses, and proposals to national organizations and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); • and to work collaboratively with the ICD-10 Collaborative and other organizations to help providers and payers achieve ICD-10 readiness. <p>Dave also reported on several key upcoming activities and planning for 2016, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued maintenance of companion guides and best practices, as well as development and maintenance of other resources and technical assistance; • Assisting the work of the two new TAGs noted above; and • Influencing and responding to a variety of national activities, ranging from the adoption and implementation of federal operating rules, to monitoring and working on such issues as electronic attachments, Health Plan ID, and health plan certification. <p>Ann Hale again thanked the AUC for its work in bringing about the accomplishments discussed, and thanked MDH for its liaison activity with the AUC.</p> | |
| 10. Other Business | <p>Dave reported that MDH is working on a SharePoint site for Ops members in its effort to streamline processes such as companion guide maintenance, review of AUC generated documents, and email voting. MDH will provide access first to AUC primary and secondary representatives but some development work must be completed before the site is fully operational.</p> <p>In discussion, questions were raised regarding Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) requirements for electronic attachments (the X12 275 transaction) for workers' compensation-related claims. In particular, information was requested regarding which version of the 275 to be using, and whether technical assistance will be available. Ann Hale reported that Laurie Darst and other providers will be meeting with DLI to discuss the questions.</p> <p>Ann also reminded Ops that a new issue brief is available at the MDH website regarding requirements for the standard, electronic exchange of prescription drug prior authorizations (PA) starting January 1, 2016. The issue brief clarifies that the</p> | MDH will notify AUC and list serve subscribers regarding a prescription drug prior authorizations (PA) issue brief and updates to the prescription drug PA/formulary exception form. |

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| | requirements do not include enforcement and compliance provisions but that MDH is working with stakeholders and the industry to promote compliance with the law. (For more information, see the issue brief at http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/eprescribing/epafact.pdf). Dave Haugen also reported that a single, uniform prescription drug PA/formulary exception form had recently been updated and was available at: http://www.health.state.mn.us/asa/asadocs/ufefpaform.pdf . | |