



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
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April 7, 2009

Dear Payer Representative:

The data submission for 2008 is due to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) by July 6, 2009. The 2008 Medical Care Data Base (MCDB) Submission Manual is posted on the Commission's website at <http://mhcc.maryland.gov/payercompliance/index.html>.

The MHCC has made changes for the 2008 submission. Please refer to the Introduction Section of the Manual for a complete list of changes. Several of the most important changes warrant special attention by your technical staff.

- The "Patient Liability" fields on both the Professional Services file (formerly the Encounter file) and the Pharmacy Services file will be replaced with three new variables that parse patient liability into three potential sources of liability: Patient Deductible; Patient Coinsurance/Copayment; and Other Patient Obligations (e.g., balance billing, non-covered services). Total patient liability will be constructed by MHCC as the sum of these variables. This change will permit the MHCC to study trends in coinsurance/co-payment levels for particular types of services and trends in deductible levels, in addition to total patient liability.
- The former "Coverage Type" variable has been reconfigured into two variables: "Plan Liability" (risk or Administrative Services Only) and a revised "Coverage Type" variable with new coding options to better match the types of coverage currently available in Maryland—including the new Health Insurance Partnership plan. (Please note that the codes for some currently existing coverage types have changed.)
- The MHCC will permit payers to submit their data by uploading it to a secure FTP server, provided they have a secure FTP client. If you would like to use this submission option, please contact Larry Monroe (contact information listed below).

I want to express the MHCC's appreciation for your submission of data to the Medical Care Data Base. The MHCC understands that your company dedicates considerable resources to this effort and we extend our thanks. Your efforts have improved the quality of the data. To further advance data quality, this year we will be establishing specific thresholds for critical variables; *submissions that do not meet these thresholds will be returned (unless a waiver was obtained)*. A list of the critical variables and their associated thresholds is in Appendix G of the MCDB Submission Manual.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Larry Monroe at (410) 764-3390 or via e-mail at lmonroe@mhcc.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

Ben Steffen
Deputy Director
Center for Analysis and Information Services

