

Electronic Health Networks Provider Overview

Overview

An electronic health network (EHN), or claims clearinghouse, functions as an intermediary between a provider's financial management system and payors. An EHN enables the electronic exchange of information including patient demographics, diagnosis, and other claims related information, reducing the need for mail, fax, telephone, and e-mail. Services provided by EHNs include verifying the accuracy and appropriateness of claims submitted, sharing errors identified during the data cleaning process, and formatting transactions to align with payors claims systems. The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must certify an EHN for it to operate in the State.

Information Sharing Enabled by an EHN

- **Claims Transactions-** Enables sending billing and encounter information
- **Retail Pharmacy Claim-** Allows submitting retail pharmacy claims by providers who dispense medications
- **Payment/Advice Remittance-** Facilitates sending an explanation of benefits, or payment to a health care provider
- **Benefit Enrollment and Maintenance-** Enables payors, employers, Medicare or Medicaid, among others, to enroll members to a payor
- **Payroll Deducted and other group Premium Payment for Insurance Products-** Allows payment for insurance products
- **Health Care Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry and Response-** Enables inquiries about the health care benefits and eligibility
- **Health Care Claim Status Request and Notifications-** Facilitates requesting the status of a health care claim
- **Health Care Service Review Information-** Transmits health care service information, such as subscriber, patient, demographic, diagnosis or treatment data for reviews, certification, notification, or reporting the outcome of a health care services review
- **Functional Acknowledgement-** Facilitates sending a receipt acknowledging that an EDI transaction, or group of transactions, was successfully received

Benefits of Using an EHN

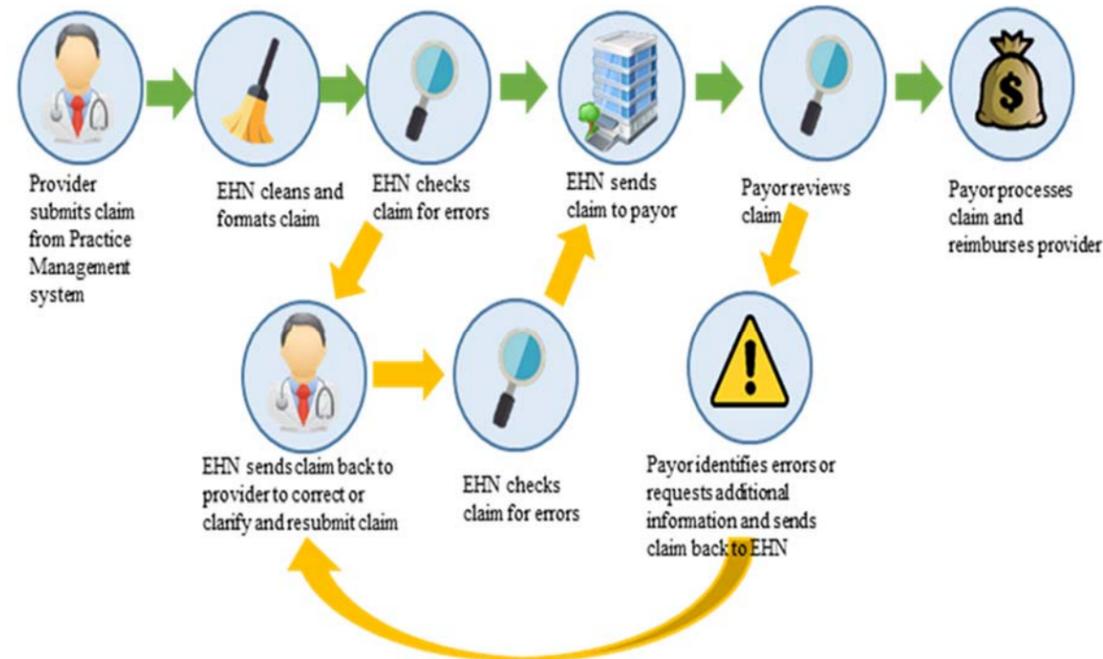
- Reduces the number of returned or rejected claims by identifying errors and requesting provider corrections prior to sending the claim to the payor;
- More timely reimbursement;
- Claims can be submitted in batch which allows submission of all claims to one payor at once; and
- Provides a single location to manage claims rather than following up with all payors individually.

EHNs Simplify Electronic Data Interchange

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the exchange of information from computer to computer. Switching from a paper-based claims system to an electronic claims system eases the administrative burden associated with filing claims and reduces overall costs to providers. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) introduced standards for EDI activity. These standards include formats for sending and receiving certain administrative documents. EHNs are able to format claims information from providers to meet the standards identified under HIPAA.

Questions to ask you Practice Management System

- Are EHN services included in your practice management system?
- Are the payors that you bill on a regular basis connected to the EHN?
- Can practices work directly with the EHN on claims submission issues?
- How does the practice management system manage contracting with an EHN?
- Can the practice select its EHN vendor?
- Is the EHN nationally accredited?
- Has MHCC certified the EHN to operate in Maryland?
- If the EHN is not connected to your payor how will your claim be handled?



The following resources provide more information about EHNs
http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit_ehn/hit_ehn.aspx
<https://www.ehnac.org/accredited-organizations/>
http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hit/hit_edl/documents/EDI_Information-Brf_20160212.pdf

MHCC Certification

The MHCC certifies EHNs that meet national standards for security, business processes, technical performance, privacy and confidentiality when transmitting patient health information. As part of the application evaluation process, MHCC reviews an EHN's national accreditation site audit and recommends areas where enhancements would help reduce risks of exposure to data breaches. The MHCC has certified 36 EHNs to operate in Maryland; Change Health Care and inMediata account for approximately 82 percent of EHN transactions in the State.



MHCC Certified EHNs

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| • Ability Network, Inc. | • InstaMed Communications, LLC | • Quadax |
| • ACS EDI Gateway, Inc. | • MD On-Line, Inc. | • Relay Health |
| • Allscripts | • MedAssets, Inc. | • inMediata |
| • Avality | • Navicare, Inc. | • Smart Data Solutions, LLC. |
| • Carestream Dental, LLC. | • Navinet | • SSI Group, Inc. |
| • SSI Claimsnet, LLC. | • Office Ally, Inc. | • Surescripts |
| • Cerner Health Services | • OneMind Health | • Tesia |
| • DentalxChange | • Optum | • Transunion |
| • Dorado Systems, LLC. | • Optum 360 | • Trizetto Provider Solutions, LLC. |
| • Change Health Care | • Passport Health Communications, Inc. | • Zirmed |
| • Eyefinity, Inc. | • PNC | |
| • GE Healthcare | • Post-N-Track Corp. | |

