

BHRD and KCBHO Providers HIPAA Trading Partner Agreement

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD), and all other covered entities in the United States, comply with National Electronic Data Interchange standards for health care transactions as established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). The HIPAA Implementation Guides have been established as the standards of compliance for health care transactions. The Implementation Guide and Addenda to the Guide for each transaction are available at www.wpc-edi.com.

HIPAA suggests that it is appropriate and prudent for payers to develop a trading partner agreement as a companion document to the standard HIPAA Implementation Guides. This is because there are two levels of scrutiny that all electronic transactions must go through. First is the standard compliance and second is the specific processing, or adjudication, of the transactions in each trading partner's individual system. Since this processing will vary from site to site (e.g., payer to payer), additional documentation that gives information regarding the processing of the transaction will prove helpful to each site's trading partners (e.g., providers) and will simplify implementation.

It is important that the trading partner agreement NOT:

- Modify the definition, condition, or use of a data element or segment in the standard Implementation Guide;
- Add any additional data elements or segments to the standard;
- Utilize any code or data values which are not valid (because they are either marked "not used" in the Guide or they are not in the standard X12 transaction at all); or
- Change the meaning or intent of the standard Implementation Guide.

This Trading Partner Agreement is intended to serve only as a companion document to the HIPAA Implementation Guides. The use of this document is for the purpose of clarification only and does not contradict any requirements in the Implementation Guides. Specifically, where the Implementation Guides allow trading partners to make a choice, this document specifies the data elements and values to use in a standard HIPAA transaction.

The detailed Trading Partner Agreement has been developed and is included as a separate attachment.

Note: Only one of the HIPAA transactions, the Health Care Claim 837 Professional transaction, is necessary for providers to report outpatient and crisis service data to BHRD. One other potential transaction, the Eligibility Inquiry/Response 270/271 transaction, might be available to providers from DCHS Medical Assistance Administration. This Trading Partner Agreement pertains only to the 837 Professional transaction and does not cover the 270/271 Eligibility transaction.