

WAC 284-170-470 Pharmacy claims—Rejections, notifications and disclosures. Issuers must provide to billing pharmacies sufficient information about transactions initiated by the pharmacy so that pharmacy claims can be processed in a timely manner.

(1) For purposes of this section "claim rejection" is an administrative step in the claim process where a claim is neither paid nor denied, but is held awaiting a defined action from the pharmacist, prescriber, or member.

(2) An issuer must notify the billing pharmacy of a claim rejection electronically and make available to the pharmacy, utilizing the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Telecommunications Standard transaction, all required data elements, as well as the following information, to the extent supported by the transaction:

(a) Rejection reasons such as prior authorization, quantity level limit, and exclusion;

(b) Other medications to consider that would not require a preauthorization (if applicable);

(c) Other medications to consider that would require a preauthorization (if applicable);

(d) Instructions for further processing of claim or for more specific contact information which may include a reference to a specific location on a website;

(e) Contact phone number of a person or department to contact who can provide additional information.

(3) Every issuer must notify its participating pharmacies of its claim process in its contracts.

(4) Every issuer must be responsible for ensuring that any person acting on behalf of or at the direction of the issuer or acting pursuant to carrier standards or requirements complies with these transaction standards.

(5) In every pharmacy provider agreement, the issuer must:

(a) Disclose if the provider or pharmacy has the right to make a prior authorization request; and

(b) Provide that if the issuer requires the authorization number to be transmitted on a pharmaceutical claim, the issuer will provide the authorization number to the billing pharmacy. The authorization number will be communicated to the billing pharmacy after approval of a prior authorization request and upon receipt of a claim for that authorized medication.

(6) The prior authorization determination must be transmitted to the requesting party and must include the following:

(a) Information about whether a request was approved.

(b) If the request was made by the pharmacy, notification will additionally be made to the prescriber.

(7) In every pharmacy provider agreement, every issuer will state that an issuer will authorize an emergency fill by the dispensing pharmacist and approve the claim payment. An emergency fill is only applicable when:

(a) The dispensing pharmacy cannot reach the issuer's prior authorization department by phone as it is outside of that department's business hours; or

(b) An issuer is available to respond to phone calls from a dispensing pharmacy regarding a covered benefit, but the issuer cannot reach the prescriber for full consultation.

(8) The issuer's emergency fill policy must include the following:

(a) The inclusionary and exclusionary list of medications provided for emergency fill by issuers. This list must be posted online on the issuer's website; this can be accomplished by linking to a common website dedicated to administrative simplification and available to the public, such as OneHealthPort.

(b) The authorized amount of the emergency fill will be no more than the prescribed amount up to a seven day supply or the minimum packaging size available at the time the emergency fill is dispensed.

(c) An emergency fill is a covered benefit. However, determination as to whether the subsequent fill is a covered health service under the patient benefit will be made as part of the prior authorization processing.

(9) Pharmacies and issuers are not required to comply with these contract provisions if the failure to comply is occasioned by any act of God, bankruptcy, act of a governmental authority responding to an act of God or other emergency, or the result of a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 48.02.060, 48.43.510. WSR 16-19-086 (Matter No. R 2016-08), § 284-170-470, filed 9/20/16, effective 10/21/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 48.02.060. WSR 16-07-144 (Matter No. R 2016-01), recodified as § 284-170-470, filed 3/23/16, effective 4/23/16. WSR 16-01-081, recodified as § 284-43-9997, filed 12/14/15, effective 12/14/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 48.02.060, 48.20.450, 48.20.460, 48.165.0301, 48.43.525, 48.43.530, 48.44.020, 48.44.050, 48.46.060(2), and 48.46.200. WSR 15-24-074 (Matter No. R 2014-13), § 284-43-325, filed 11/25/15, effective 7/1/16.]