

Provider Name:
Provider Address:
Date:

Dear Dr.:

As you may know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS, requires Medicare Advantage plans — like our *Deseret Secure* plan — to maintain and submit detailed documentation for each Medicare Advantage patient in a specific format on an ongoing basis.

Specifically, under new CMS rules related to the Medicare Modernization Act, the specific diagnoses of each member must be documented based on ICD-9-CM standards and supported by valid documentation within the patient's medical chart.

As a result, at Deseret Mutual we're working to make sure we have appropriate documentation for each member to clarify specific medical conditions. We appreciate your help with this as we work to meet, maintain, and exceed CMS's requirements and standards. As part of this ongoing process, we're reviewing charts to make sure our records properly reflect the clinical condition of our Medicare Advantage members.

To do so, we're pleased to be working with MedAssurant, Inc. to review patient charts on our behalf. MedAssurant serves Deseret Mutual in a role that's defined and covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

As defined by HIPAA, MedAssurant's role is as a "Business Associate" of "Covered Entities." As such, MedAssurant is ethically and legally bound to protect, preserve, and maintain the confidentiality of any Protected Health Information (PHI) it gleans from clinical records provided by medical practice locations pursuant to its contractual obligations to Deseret Mutual. So rest assured that MedAssurant is authorized and will treat your patients' PHI with the highest level of protection and confidentiality (please see the back of this letter for more information).

In advance of CMS data submission deadlines, MedAssurant is conducting medical chart reviews on behalf of Deseret Mutual during the coming weeks.

Your cooperation in extending MedAssurant your professional courtesy and help is much appreciated. If you have questions about any portion of this process, please contact your Deseret Mutual Provider Relations Representative. You can reach us at 1-801-578-5600 in the Salt Lake City area or toll free at 1-800-777-3622 and choosing options 1, 3 then 5. We appreciate your help and thank you for partnering with us to improve the health of individuals, families, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Larry V. Staker, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Deseret Mutual Benefit Administrators

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Deseret Mutual has signed a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with MedAssurant, Inc. (Vendor) in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. This BAA allows MedAssurant to use protected health information (PHI) on behalf of Deseret Mutual.

HIPAA governs the use and disclosure of PHI among health plans, health-care providers, health-care clearinghouses, and business associates. HIPAA allows these entities to exchange PHI without an enrollee's authorization or consent under certain circumstances. Under this provision, you are permitted to disclose PHI to this vendor, as a Deseret Mutual Business Associate, when requested for purposes such as:

- Quality assessment;
- Disease Management, Case Management, and Care Coordination;
- Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health-care professionals;
- Evaluating physician and health-care professional performance;
- Evaluating health-plan performance;
- Accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing activities

In adopting this regulation under HIPAA, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) explicitly recognized in the preamble to the HIPAA privacy regulations that health plans may need to obtain PHI from physicians and other health-care professionals for the plans' quality related activities, accreditation, and performance measures. HHS confirmed that the provision "was intended to allow information to flow from one covered entity to another for activities important to providing quality and effective health care."