

Health Partners Will Accept HIPAA Compliant and Non-Compliant Provider Claims

October 7, 2003

To ensure continuity of business operations while implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Transaction and Code Sets standards, Health Partners has developed a contingency plan. Under this contingency plan Health Partners will continue to accept existing claim formats, in addition to HIPAA compliant transactions.

Health Partners will continue to actively work with its provider community to make the transition to HIPAA compliant transactions. Through our outreach efforts we understand that our providers are at different stages of HIPAA transactions implementation. Health Partners will continue to evaluate provider readiness and determine the appropriate transition date for each provider on an individual basis.

Health Partners decision to initiate contingency operations is primarily a result of the readiness status of providers to meet the October 16, 2003 compliance date. In addition, Health Partners has also reviewed the decisions made by government agencies and other members of the payor community to implement similar contingency plans.

Health Partners understands that mandating use of HIPAA compliant transactions on October 16, 2003 will create unintended consequences, including potential problems with claims submission and payment.

Health Partners will not continue to accept claims in both current and new HIPAA compliant formats for an extended period of time. Therefore, we will continue to work with providers who are making a "good faith effort" to comply with HIPAA requirements to eventually submit HIPAA compliant transactions.