



BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

An Independent Licensee of the
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for HIPAA Readiness

1) Does BCBSNC have a checklist for HIPAA readiness?

BCBSNC EDI Services recommends that providers review the CMS HIPAA-Readiness Checklist, available at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/ReadinessChkLst.pdf>. Many of the topics addressed in this checklist that are pertinent to providers' business needs with BCBSNC are addressed in the FAQ below.

2) What do I need to do to be ready to transmit HIPAA compliant electronic transactions with BCBSNC?

Direct Senders of electronic transactions will need to do the following:

- a) Complete a copy of the BCBSNC Trading Partner Agreement (TPA), available online at www.bcbsnc.com/providers/edi/hipaainfo.cfm.
- b) Return an original copy of the TPA, signed by authorized personnel, to BCBSNC EDI Services (see Trading Partner Agreement Instructions online for more details.).
- c) Conduct pre-production testing for each type of transaction you want to send to BCBSNC.
- d) Complete an Electronic Connectivity Request (ECR) form for each type of transaction you want to transmit. These ECR forms are available online at www.bcbsnc.com/providers/edi/hipaainfo.cfm

Indirect Senders who transmit electronic transactions to BCBSNC via another party (clearinghouse or service bureau) will need to do the following:

- a) Complete ECR forms for each type of transaction you want to submit or receive. These ECR forms are available online at www.bcbsnc.com/providers/edi/hipaainfo.cfm and may be completed and submitted on your behalf by your clearinghouse or service bureau.

3) How do I conduct testing with BCBSNC prior to production transmissions?

BCBSNC intends to provide a Web-enabled application for trading partners to test online. The following steps are part of the process for preparing to test.

- a) Submit a signed Trading Partner Agreement to BCBSNC EDI Services. A Trading Partner agreement is required for all parties wishing to test transmission with BCBSNC.
- b) BCBSNC EDI Services will contact you with information about logging on to the Web application with a secure ID and password. The application provides trading partners with reports on test results and verification of production-readiness.

4) Does BCBSNC have a Companion Guide to assist trading partners in the transmission of HIPAA compliant EDI transactions with BCBSNC?

Yes. The *BCBSNC Companion Guide to EDI Transactions* documents any assumptions, conventions, or data issues that may be specific to BCBSNC business process when implementing the HIPAA ASC X12N Implementation Guides. The BCBSNC Companion Guide consists of one chapter for each transaction type, an introductory chapter for



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information applicable to all transmissions, and appendices that include BCBSNC business edits for health care claims. The Introduction to the BCBSNC Companion Guide to EDI Transactions outlines:

- BCBSNC business process issues applicable to all transactions
- Interchange Control and Functional Group details
- Connectivity requirements
- Error reporting

The BCBSNC Companion Guide to EDI Transactions is available as pdf files, online at www.bcbsnc.com/providers/edi/hipainfo.cfm

5) We currently use Blue e and RealMed services to transmit data electronically with BCBSNC. Will these systems continue to be supported?

BCBSNC will continue to provide **Blue e** and RealMed services and support them. However, due to HIPAA Privacy regulations, some changes have been implemented to **Blue e** services. See the *What's New* page after logging on to **Blue e**, or consult the online **Blue e** User's Manual for more information.