ForwardHealth
Wisconsin serving you

Update
June 2008

No. 2008-45

Affected Programs: All Programs
To: All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Paper Claim Form Preparation and Data Alignment Requirements for ForwardHealth interChange

This *ForwardHealth Update* provides information about the paper claim form preparation and data alignment requirements for 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form and UB-04 Claim Form. These requirements will help assure that claim forms are aligned correctly in order to optimize speed of processing using optical character recognition software. This *Update* also gives information about electronic claims submission options. The information in this *Update* does not apply to American Dental Association claim forms or the pharmacy Compound Drug Claim, F-13073 (10/08), and Noncompound Drug Claim, F-13072 (10/08).

Implementation of ForwardHealth interChange

In October 2008, the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) will implement ForwardHealth interChange, which replaces Wisconsin's existing Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). ForwardHealth interChange will be supported as part of the State's new fiscal agent contract with EDS. With ForwardHealth interChange, providers and trading partners will have more ways to verify member enrollment and submit electronic claims, adjustments, and prior authorization requests through the secure ForwardHealth Portal. Refer to the March 2008 *ForwardHealth Update* (2008-24), titled "Introducing ForwardHealth interChange, a New Web-Based Information System for State Health Care Programs," for an overview of the implementation and a more detailed outline of the many business process enhancements and added benefits the new system and fiscal agent contract will provide.

These requirements apply to all ForwardHealth programs except as noted.

Optical Character Recognition

Paper claims submitted to ForwardHealth on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Forms and UB-04 Claim Forms will be processed using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software that recognizes printed, alphanumeric text. Optical Character Recognition software will increase efficiency by alleviating the need for keying in data from paper claims. Optical Character Recognition software will only read current versions of the paper 1500 Health Insurance Claim Forms and the UB-04 Claim Forms. Older versions of the 1500 Health Insurance and the UB-04 paper claim forms, including the UB-92 paper claim form, will not be accepted.

Information in this *Update* does not apply to American Dental Association claim forms or pharmacy Compound Drug Claim, F-13073 (10/08), and Noncompound Drug Claim, F-13072 (10/08).

Speed and Accuracy of Claims Processing

Optical Character Recognition software processes claim forms by reading text within fields on claim forms. After a paper claim form is received by ForwardHealth, the claim form is scanned so that an image can be displayed electronically. The OCR software reads the electronic image on file and populates the information into the ForwardHealth interChange system. This technology increases accuracy by removing the possibility of errors being made during manual keying.

Optical Character Recognition software will speed paper claim processing, but only if providers prepare their claim forms correctly. In order for OCR software to read the claim form accurately, the quality of copy and the alignment of text within individual fields on the claim form need to be precise. If data are misaligned, the claim could be processed incorrectly. If data cannot be read by the OCR software, the process will stop and the electronic image of the claim form will need to be reviewed and keyed manually. This will cause an increase in processing time.

Handwritten Claims

Submitting handwritten claims should be avoided whenever possible. ForwardHealth will continue to accept handwritten claims; however, it is very difficult for OCR software to read a handwritten claim. If a handwritten claim cannot be read by the OCR software, it will need to be keyed manually from the electronic image of the claim form. Providers should avoid submitting claims with handwritten corrections as this can also cause OCR software processing delays.

Use Original Claim Forms

Only original 1500 Health Insurance Claim Forms and UB-04 Claim Forms should be submitted. Original claim forms are printed in red ink and may be obtained from a federal forms supplier. ForwardHealth does not provide these claim forms. Claims that are submitted as photocopies cannot be read by OCR software and will need to be keyed manually from an electronic image of the claim form. This could result in processing delays.

Use Laser or Ink Jet Printers

It is recommended that claims are printed using laser or ink jet printers rather than printers that use DOT matrix. DOT matrix printers have breaks in the letters and numbers, which may cause the OCR software to misread the claim form. Use of old or worn ink cartridges should also be avoided. If the claim form is read incorrectly by the OCR software, the claim may be denied or reimbursed incorrectly. The process may also be stopped if it is unable to read the claim form, which will cause a delay while it is manually reviewed.

Alignment

Alignment within each field on the claim form needs to be accurate. If text within a field is aligned incorrectly, the OCR software may not recognize that data are present within the field or may not read the data correctly. For example, if a reimbursement amount of $300.00 is entered into a field on the claim form, but the last "0" is not aligned within the field, the OCR software may read the number as $30.00, and the claim will be reimbursed incorrectly.

To get the best alignment on the claim form, providers should center information vertically within each field, and align all information on the same horizontal plane. Avoid squeezing two lines of text into one of the six line items on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form. Refer to Attachments 1-4 of this *Update* for examples of 1500 Health Insurance and UB-04 claim forms that are aligned correctly and incorrectly.

Clarity

Clarity is very important. If information on the claim form is not clear enough to be read by the OCR software, the process may stop, prompting manual review.

The following guidelines will produce the clearest image and optimize processing time:

- Use 10- or 12-point Times New Roman or Courier New font.
- Type all claim data in uppercase letters.
- Use only black ink to complete the claim form.
- Avoid using italics, bold, or script.
- Make sure characters do not touch.
- Make sure there are no lines from the printer cartridge anywhere on the claim form.
- Avoid using special characters such as dollar signs, decimals, dashes, asterisks, or backslashes, unless it is specified that these characters should be used.
- Use Xs in check boxes. Avoid using letters such as "Y" for "Yes," "N" for "No," "M" for "Male," or "F" for "Female."
- Do not highlight any information on the claim form. Highlighted information blackens when it is imaged, and the OCR software will be unable to read it.

Note: The above guidelines will also produce the clearest image for claims that need to be keyed manually from an electronic image.

Staples, Correction Liquid, and Correction Tape

The use of staples, correction liquid, correction tape, labels, or stickers on claim forms should be avoided. Staples need to be removed from claim forms before they can be imaged, which can damage the claim and cause a delay in processing time. Correction liquid, correction tape, labels, and stickers can cause data to be read incorrectly or cause the OCR process to stop, prompting manual review. If the form cannot be read by the OCR software, it will need to be keyed manually from an electronic image.

Additional Diagnosis Codes

ForwardHealth will accept up to eight diagnosis codes in Element 21 of the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form. To correctly add additional diagnosis codes in this element so that it can be read properly by the OCR software, providers should indicate the fifth diagnosis code between the first and third diagnosis code blanks, the sixth diagnosis code between the second and fourth diagnosis code blanks, the seventh diagnosis code to the right of the third diagnosis code blank, and the eighth diagnosis code to the right of the fourth diagnosis code blank. Providers should not number any additional diagnosis codes.

Anchor Fields

Anchor fields are areas on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form and the UB-04 Claim Form that the OCR software uses to identify what type of form is being processed. The following fields on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form are anchor fields:

- Element 2 (Patient's Name).
- Element 4 (Insured's Name).
- Element 24 (Detail 1).

The following fields on the UB-04 Claim Form are anchor fields:

- Form Locator 4 (Type of Bill).
- Form Locator 5 (Fed. Tax No.).
- Form Locator 9 (Patient Address).
- Form Locator 58A (Insured's Name).

Since ForwardHealth uses these fields to identify the form as a 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form or a UB-04 Claim Form, it is required that these fields are completed for processing. Watch for future service-specific claim instruction publications for information on what to include in anchor fields on 1500 Health Insurance Claim Forms and UB-04 Claim Forms.

Electronic Claims Submission

While the OCR software will speed paper claims processing considerably, the most efficient way to process claims is through electronic claims submission.

Providers may submit claims using the following electronic submission options:

- ForwardHealth Portal.
- Provider Electronic Solutions software.
- 837 Health Care Claims for Electronic Data Interchange.
- National Council for Prescription Drug Programs.

Watch for future publications for information on submitting claims electronically.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

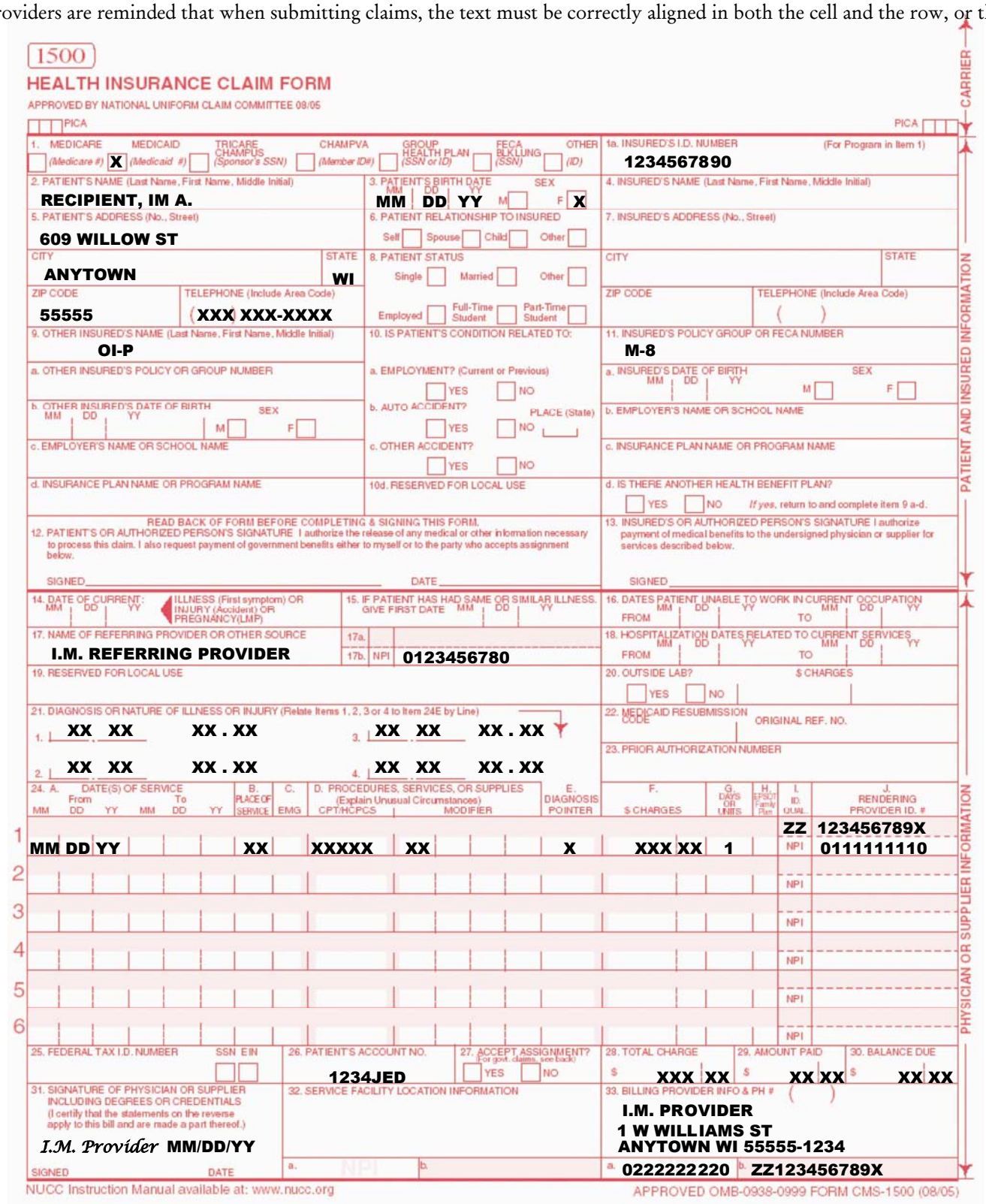
Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHFS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at *dhfs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/*.

PHC 1250

ATTACHMENT 1
Sample of a Correctly Aligned 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form

The following sample 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form is an example of how claims data should be correctly aligned on the form. Providers are reminded that when submitting claims, the text must be correctly aligned in both the cell and the row, or the claim will deny.



1500

HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM

APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE 08/05

PICA

1. MEDICARE [ ] (Medicare #) MEDICAID [X] (Medicaid #) TRICARE CHAMPUS [ ] (Sponsor's SSN) CHAMPVA [ ] (Member ID#) GROUP HEALTH PLAN [ ] (SSN or ID) FECA BLK LUNG [ ] (SSN) OTHER [ ] (ID)

1a. INSURED'S I.D. NUMBER (For Program in Item 1): 1234567890

2. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial): RECIPIENT, IM A.

3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM DD YY: MM DD YY SEX M [ ] F [X]

4. INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial):

5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No., Street): 609 WILLOW ST

6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED: Self [ ] Spouse [ ] Child [ ] Other [ ]

7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No., Street):

CITY: ANYTOWN STATE: WI

8. PATIENT STATUS: Single [ ] Married [ ] Other [ ] Employed [ ] Full-Time Student [ ] Part-Time Student [ ]

CITY: STATE:

ZIP CODE: 55555 TELEPHONE (Include Area Code): (XXX) XXX-XXXX

ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE (Include Area Code): ( )

9. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial): OI-P

10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO:

11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER: M-8

a. OTHER INSURED'S POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER

a. EMPLOYMENT? (Current or Previous) YES [ ] NO [ ]

a. INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM DD YY SEX M [ ] F [ ]

b. OTHER INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM DD YY SEX M [ ] F [ ]

b. AUTO ACCIDENT? YES [ ] NO [ ] PLACE (State)

b. EMPLOYER'S NAME OR SCHOOL NAME

c. EMPLOYER'S NAME OR SCHOOL NAME

c. OTHER ACCIDENT? YES [ ] NO [ ]

c. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME

d. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME

10d. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE

d. IS THERE ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN? YES [ ] NO [ ] If yes, return to and complete item 9 a-d.

READ BACK OF FORM BEFORE COMPLETING & SIGNING THIS FORM.

12. PATIENT'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize the release of any medical or other information necessary to process this claim. I also request payment of government benefits either to myself or to the party who accepts assignment below.

SIGNED DATE

13. INSURED'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services described below.

SIGNED

14. DATE OF CURRENT: MM DD YY ILLNESS (First symptom) OR INJURY (Accident) OR PREGNANCY(LMP)

15. IF PATIENT HAS HAD SAME OR SIMILAR ILLNESS, GIVE FIRST DATE MM DD YY

16. DATES PATIENT UNABLE TO WORK IN CURRENT OCCUPATION MM DD YY FROM TO MM DD YY

17. NAME OF REFERRING PROVIDER OR OTHER SOURCE: I.M. REFERRING PROVIDER

17a.

17b. NPI 0123456780

18. HOSPITALIZATION DATES RELATED TO CURRENT SERVICES MM DD YY FROM TO MM DD YY

19. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE

20. OUTSIDE LAB? YES [ ] NO [ ] $ CHARGES

21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY (Relate Items 1, 2, 3 or 4 to Item 24E by Line)

1. XX XX XX . XX 3. XX XX XX . XX

2. XX XX XX . XX 4. XX XX XX . XX

22. MEDICAID RESUBMISSION CODE ORIGINAL REF. NO.

23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER

24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE From MM DD YY	To MM DD YY	B. PLACE OF SERVICE	C. EMG	D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances) CPT/HCPCS	MODIFIER	E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER	F. $ CHARGES	G. DAYS OR UNITS	H. EPSDT Family Plan	I. ID. QUAL.	J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #
1 MM DD YY		XX		XXXXX	XX	X	XXX XX	1		ZZ NPI	123456789X 0111111110
2										NPI	
3										NPI	
4										NPI	
5										NPI	
6										NPI	

25. FEDERAL TAX I.D. NUMBER SSN [ ] EIN [ ]

26. PATIENT'S ACCOUNT NO.: 1234JED

27. ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT? (For govt. claims, see back) YES [ ] NO [ ]

28. TOTAL CHARGE $ XXX XX

29. AMOUNT PAID $ XX XX

30. BALANCE DUE $ XX XX

31. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INCLUDING DEGREES OR CREDENTIALS (I certify that the statements on the reverse apply to this bill and are made a part thereof.)

I.M. Provider MM/DD/YY

SIGNED DATE

32. SERVICE FACILITY LOCATION INFORMATION

a. NPI b.

33. BILLING PROVIDER INFO & PH # ( )

I.M. PROVIDER
1 W WILLIAMS ST
ANYTOWN WI 55555-1234

a. 0222222220 b. ZZ123456789X

NUCC Instruction Manual available at: www.nucc.org

APPROVED OMB-0938-0999 FORM CMS-1500 (08/05)

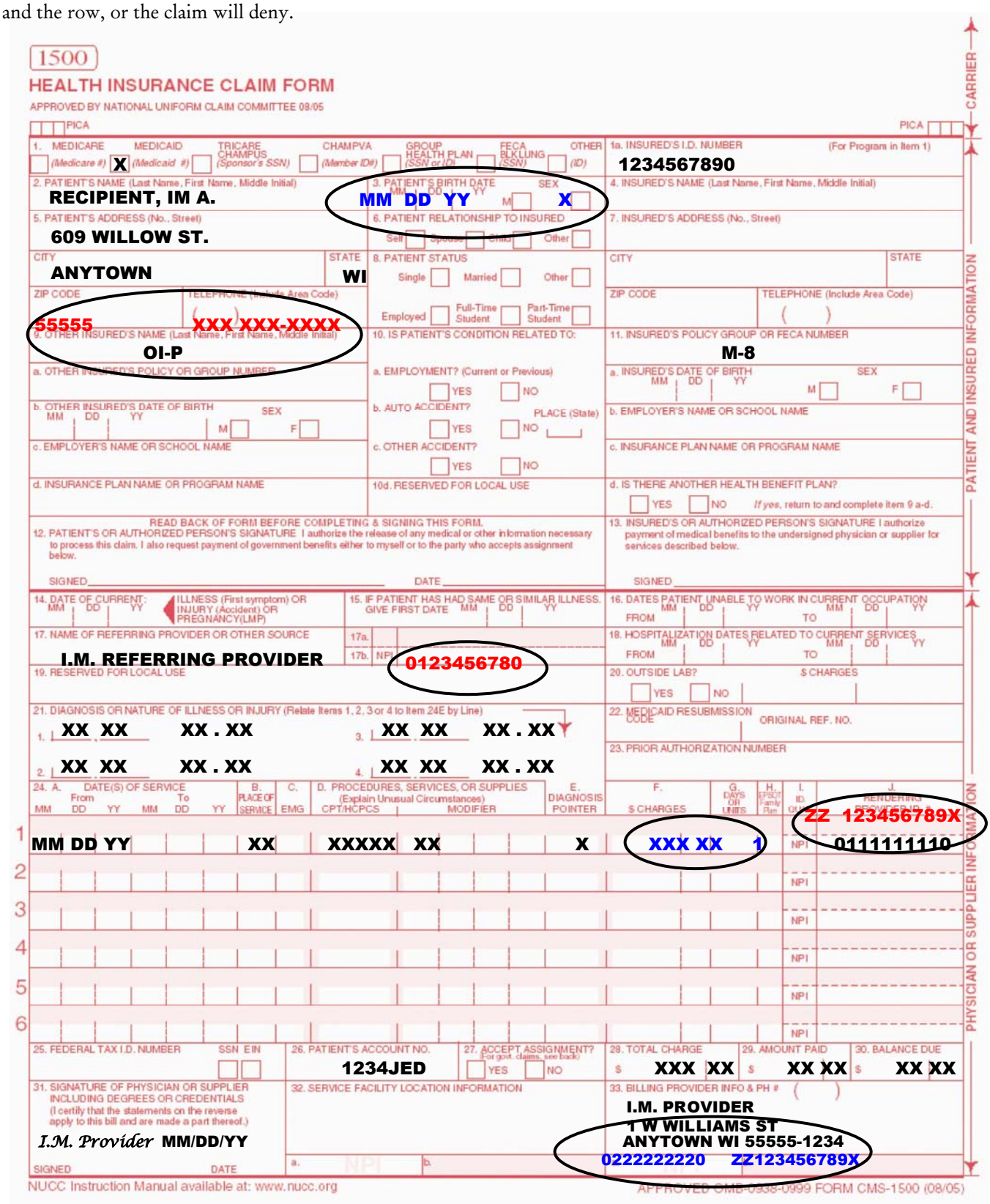
CARRIER

PATIENT AND INSURED INFORMATION

PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INFORMATION

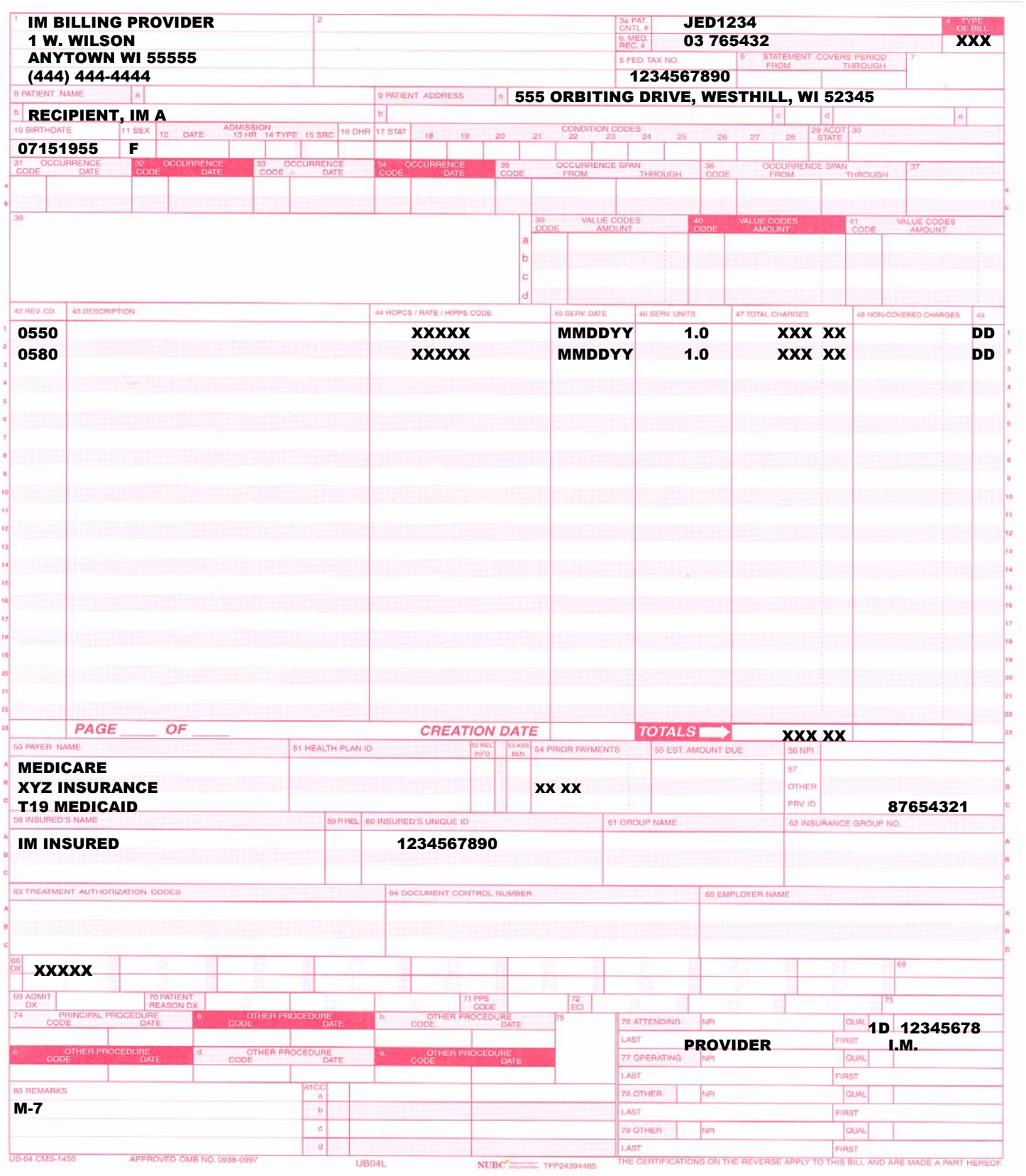
ATTACHMENT 2
Sample of an Incorrectly Aligned 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form

The blue text in the following sample 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form is incorrectly aligned within the cell. The red text has been incorrectly aligned within the row. Providers are reminded that when submitting claims, the text must be correctly aligned in both the cell and the row, or the claim will deny.



ATTACHMENT 3
Sample of a Correctly Aligned UB-04 Claim Form

The following sample UB-04 Claim Form is an example of how claims data should be correctly aligned on the form. Providers are reminded that when submitting claims, the text must be correctly aligned in both the cell and the row, or the claim will deny.



ATTACHMENT 4
Sample of an Incorrectly Aligned UB-04 Claim Form

The blue text in the following sample UB-04 Claim Form is incorrectly aligned within the cell. The red text is incorrectly aligned within the row. Providers are reminded that when submitting claims, the text must be correctly aligned in both the cell and the row, or the claim will deny.