

United HealthCare UCR Group Settlement- What does it mean for you?

We have seen many class action lawsuits in the past 10 years against health insurers relating to various alleged unfair practices in dealing with policyholders and medical care providers, resulting in hundreds of millions in settlement dollars.

Many of these lawsuits resulted in relatively small settlement proceeds to individual medical practices because of the complicated process needed to quantify damages and significant administrative and attorney costs. However, the landmark United HealthCare case relating to 1994-2009 claims is unique in that the claims administrator has the database of eligible claims, simplifying the process for all involved and allowing thousands of medical care providers to quantify damages. We recommend that all medical practices look into their eligibility for a portion of the settlement proceeds, especially since the process is relatively painless.



Background

It was discovered that United Health Group was using a flawed “usual, customary, and reasonable” (UCR) database to determine its out-of-network payment rates, and with this discovery UHC settled the case out of court and agreed to pay \$350 million to physicians and patients whose payments were based on the skewed data.

For medical practices to be eligible for part of the settlement, they must have both:

- 1) Provided covered out-of-network services or supplies between March 15, 1994 and November 18, 2009 to patients who were covered by a health plan insured or administered by United Healthcare, Oxford Health Plans, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, American Airlines or companies’ parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors or successors (defendants), and
- 2) billed one of the defendants for these services or supplies by having a document signed by the patient or the patient’s legal representative that transfers the patient’s rights to recover the out-of-network benefit from a defendant to the practice.

How to check if your eligible?

Visit http://berdonclaims.com/case_files/261_527file.pdf and fill out the bottom portion of page 15 and send to:

United HealthCare Class Action Litigation
c/o Berdon Claims Administration LLC
P.O. Box 15000
Jericho, NY 11853-0001

If you are eligible for part of the settlement, this will make you eligible for 50 percent of the “recognized loss” limited to the claims on the report provided to you by the Settlement Claims Administrator.

For more information please visit the AMA’s [frequently asked questions](#) or contact Evan Ott or Michael Burzynski from Komisar Brady’s health care division. The absolute deadline to make a claim is October 5, 2010 so we encourage all medical practices to act fast. Step one above does not make the formal claim so we encourage you to begin the process now.