

Billing with National Drug Codes

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) reimburses claims submitted with National Drug Codes (NDCs) in accordance with the NDC Fee Schedule posted on the BCBSTX provider website, bcbstx.com/provider, under "Drugs". The NDC Fee Schedule is updated monthly on the first of each month.
- To locate this information:
 - Click the Standards & Requirements tab, then select General Reimbursement Information,
 - Enter password, then scroll down to the Reimbursement Schedules and Related Information area, then go to Professional
 - For Blue Choice PPO and HMO Blue Texas, select 2014 Schedules effective July 1, 2014, then scroll down to Drugs.
 - For Blue Advantage HMO, select your county from the alphabetical links provided, select 2014 Schedules effective July 1, 2014, select the Specialty, then scroll down to Drugs
- Lower-cost generic medications may be reimbursed with a larger margin compared to higher-cost generic and brand medications.
- Effective June 1, 2014, BCBSTX revised the methodology utilized for determining the allowables for Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) or Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes associated with multiple NDCs. The HCPCS or CPT code allowable generally will be equivalent to the lowest NDC allowable associated with the HCPCS or CPT code.
- When drugs are billed under the medical benefit on professional/ancillary/facility electronic (ANSI 837P) and paper (CMS-1500) claims, it is important to include NDCs and related data. Using NDCs on medical claims facilitates more accurate payment and better management of drug costs based on what was dispensed. Professional, ancillary or facility providers are encouraged to begin including the NDC information on claims as soon as possible.
- BCBSTX requires inclusion of the NDC along with the applicable HCPCS or CPT code(s) on claim submissions for unlisted or "Not Otherwise Classified" (NOC) professional, ancillary or facility provider-administered and supplied drugs. BCBSTX will continue to accept the HCPCS or CPT code elements without NDC information (excluding unlisted or "Not Otherwise Classified" drugs).
- As a reminder, when submitting NDCs on professional/ancillary/facility electronic (ANSI 837P or 837I) and paper (CMS-1500) or UB-04 claims to BCBSTX, you must also include the following related information:
 - The applicable HCPCS or CPT code
 - Number of HCPCS/CPT units
 - NDC qualifier (N4)
 - NDC unit of measure (UN – Unit, ML – Milliliter, GR – Gram, F2 – International Unit)
 - Number of NDC units (up to three decimal places)
 - Your billable charge/price per unit
- If you submit claim electronically and you have converted to ANSI 5010, there should be no additional software requirements when NDCs are included on electronic claims. However, please verify with your software vendor to confirm that your Practice Management System accepts and transmits the NDC data fields appropriately. If you use a billing service or clearinghouse to submit electronic claims on your behalf, please check with them to ensure that NDC data is not manipulated or dropped inadvertently.

Resources

- **BCBSTX Provider website at [bcbstx.com/provider](http://www.bcbstx.com/provider)**
 - Billing with National Drug Codes (NDC) - NDC Billing [Guidelines for Professional claims - http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/claims/submit.html](http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/claims/submit.html)
 - Billing with NDCs- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) <http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/claims/submit.html>

- **NDC Units Calculator Tool available on the Availity provider portal at [availity.com](http://www.availity.com)**
 - Not registered with Availity? It's free. Visit [availity.com](http://www.availity.com) for details. To access the NDC Units Calculator Tool (you must register first):
 - Step 1: <http://www.availity.com>
 - Step 2: Log on to the Availity provider portal
 - Step 3: Select Claims Management from the Home page menu
 - Step 4: Click on NDC Units Calculator Tool

- **NDC Tutorial – go to the following link:**
<http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/gri/gri.html>

- **If you would like to contact your BCBSTX Provider Relations Representative see below for Office Locations and Telephone Number(s):**

Provider Relations Office	Telephone Number
Austin	512-349-4847
Corpus Christi	361-878-1623
Dallas	972-766-8900 / 800-749-0966
El Paso	915-496-6600
Houston, Beaumont, East Texas	713-663-1149 / 800-637-0171
Lubbock, Amarillo	806-783-4610
Midland, Abilene, San Angelo	432-620-1406
San Antonio	361-878-1623