

# Electronic data interchange 278N for hospitals

## Reference guide

Electronic data interchange (EDI) 278N is a system-to-system exchange of admission notification business data in standard X12 format between an inpatient facility and insurers. A facility can transmit EDI 278N directly to UnitedHealthcare or through a clearinghouse in batch or real-time format.

EDI 278N helps simplify the admission notification process, so physicians, facility staff and UnitedHealthcare can communicate and coordinate care for UnitedHealthcare members.

### Options for sending EDI 278N to UnitedHealthcare

You have 2 options for sending EDI 278N:

- Contract with a vendor or clearinghouse to handle it
- Have your facility build the notification in-house

To determine the best method for your situation:

- Contact your vendor to find out if your hospital's registration system can create and send EDI 278N
- If your vendor doesn't support EDI 278N, or your hospital has its own registration system, please review our companion guide with your technical staff to see if you can develop 278N capabilities in-house. To access it, go to [UHCprovider.com/EDI](https://UHCprovider.com/EDI) and select the EDI 278N Companion Guide.

### Two types of EDI 278N connections to UnitedHealthcare

Your admission notification may be created by direct connection if it's built in-house or by indirect connection if it's through a vendor/clearinghouse.

If it is built in-house, a direct connection will be available to UnitedHealthcare through Optum, the health services information company that manages **EDI** on behalf of UnitedHealthcare. We can give you more information and show you the testing steps to:

- Register the account
- Establish connectivity
- Submit test files
- Begin sending EDI 27N files

If you work through a vendor/clearinghouse, considered an indirect connection, most clearinghouses already have a connection to UnitedHealthcare through Optum's Intelligent EDI (IEDI). Be sure to discuss with your vendor/clearinghouse:

- Implementation time frame and process
- Any associated costs
- How to escalate issues or questions



## Implementation process considerations

During the implementation process, your facility's internal team will need to discuss the following:

- Product identification
- Internet protocol (IP) guidelines
- Rejected transactions
- Avoiding duplicate submissions
- Business hours and downtime procedures
- Process for handling reports for neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) babies who stay beyond mothers' discharge date

## Resources

- UnitedHealthcare EDI 278N program documents, including all companion guides, and other EDI resources are available on the EDI page. Go to [UHCprovider.com/EDI](https://UHCprovider.com/EDI).
- For information about Optum direct connection, which enables you to exchange clinical information securely with UnitedHealthcare, please email the Optum Sales team at [IEDIsales@optum.com](mailto:IEDIsales@optum.com)
- For more information or to purchase copies of the ASC X12 Standards for Electronic Data Interchange Technical Report Type 3 – (005010X216) Health Care Services Review Notification and Acknowledgement (278N) or the (005010X230) Functional Acknowledgement for Health Care Insurance (997), please visit Washington Publishing Company at [wpc-edi.com](https://wpc-edi.com)

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