

## Make the change to digital authorization/referral and hospital admission notifications using EDI

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Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem) and Availity are excited to announce the Prior Authorization and Referrals (278) and Inpatient Admission and Discharge Notification (278N) 5010 transactions functionality.

### Prior Authorization and Referral Request (278)

Use this transaction to electronically submit authorization and referral requests. You have the option to transmit this transaction in real-time or batch mode, and you will receive confirmation numbers to validate receipt of request.

- An authorization is a review and approval of specific services
- A referral is used to refer a patient to a specialty provider

### Hospital Admission Notification (278N)

Use this transaction to electronically submit **hospital admission notifications between your facility and health plan**. The EDI 278N is the easiest, most efficient way to communicate facility admissions. Just like the 278, you can also transmit in either batch or real-time format which includes the ability to update a previously submitted date.

### What are your benefits for using these transactions?

- Streamline administrative tasks and increase productivity
- Reduce administrative costs through automation
- Increase data accuracy by reducing manual errors
- Confirm a notification of admission is on file in the form of a service reference number that is generated upon registration
- Submit notification of discharge
- Accomplish more with less – fewer phone calls, faxes or keying

## Getting Started

- If you use a clearinghouse or vendor work with them to ensure they have the capability to exchange these transactions.
- If you use practice management software have your Availity administrator use the following path to enroll:
  - My Providers > Enrollment Center > Transaction Enrollment

## Useful Documents

- [Availity EDI Companion Guide](#) communicates Availity-specific requirements and other information that supplements requirements and information already provided in standard EDI and HIPAA communications.
- Anthem specific companion guide communicates requirements for submitting these transactions. These are located on the company website at – [anthem.com/edi](https://www.anthem.com/edi)
- The [Availity Quick Start Guide](#) will assist you with any EDI connection questions you might have.

If you need assistance, contact Availity Client Services at 1-800-Availity (1-800-282-4548), Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

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