



155 Lafayette St Nashville, TN 37210

Phone: (615) 255-0331 Toll-Free: (877) 608-1009 Fax: (615) 255-0354
bharrell@tnjustice.org
www.tnjustice.org

August 18, 2023

via <https://www.regulations.gov>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs
Division of Regulations Development
Attention: Document Identifier/ OMB Control Number: 0938-1197
Room C4-26-05,
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Re: **Health Insurance Common Claims Form Number CMS-1500
(OMB Control Number: 0938-1197)**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the proposed extension of the collection of information by means of the use of the CMS-1500 paper claims form, and its electronic format version, which is designated as Form 837-P. We support the proposed extension, as the CMS-1500 provides a well-established, efficient means of collecting information vital to the delivery of health services throughout the United States. That information is used in the submission and processing of claims for payment for health services. The uniformly coded clinical information contained in CMS-1500 forms also makes claims databases a vital resource for health research.

Extension of Form CMS-1500's use across the health care system will not only continue to facilitate the efficient submission and processing of claims, and the extensive health research that is based on mining claims databases. Extension of Form CMS-1500 can potentially make a significant contribution to addressing the serious and well-documented inadequacies of easily accessible data necessary to secure real time and accurate race and ethnicity health status and treatment information. The lack of uniform, efficiently collected data has been a decades-long barrier to understanding and addressing health and health care disparities. CMS and many other public and private entities are working diligently to remedy the problem, but none of those efforts is a panacea. The nearly universal use of the CMS-1500 to capture information on major categories of health services, and the longstanding integration of the form into the nation's health care financing and delivery infrastructure, make it a potentially inexpensive and efficient vehicle for complementing other ongoing efforts to improve our understanding of racial and ethnic health disparities. For a further discussion of this potential use of the CMS-1500, please see

August 18, 2023

CMS Division of Regulations Development

Re: Health Insurance Common Claims Form Number CMS-1500

(OMB Control Number: 0938-1197)

Rosenbaum, S., "Eliminating Inequity in Health Care Demands Measurement in Real Time," *Milbank Quarterly Opinion*. August 12, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1599/mqop.2021.0806>.

Patient race and ethnicity information, frequently collected and stored in patients' electronic health records, are not currently captured on the CMS-1500 claims form (or its counterpart form for institutional care, the CMS-1450/UB-04/837-I). This can be remedied by modifying an already existing data element on the standard 837-P claims format to receive race and ethnicity data that has been voluntarily provided by patients to providers in such reporting vehicles as the electronic health record. As compared to other means of collecting race and ethnicity information to support health research, the use of uniform claims forms would involve minimal expense, delay or administrative burden.

For these reasons, we strongly support the extension of the CMS-1500 claim form. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brant Harrell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brant Harrell
Legal Director