

## ***AetInfo's Standard Universal Files***

### ***November 1, 2005***

**Purpose:** We want to update you about format, content and/or documentation changes in the standard AetInfo® Universal Files. The scope of this communication is global, and the subject matter is generic. It does not include references to individual customers or customized file formats.

This update includes information that may require you to revise your intake/load program. If you have questions about these changes (or about other aspects of U Files), please contact any of the AetInfo contacts listed later in this document.

**Abbreviations:** Below are some of the abbreviations referenced in this document.

ACAS = Automatic Claim Adjudication System (that is, Field #7, Source System Platform = "27")

AetInfo = Aetna Integrated Informatics®

AHF = Aetna HealthFund®

U Med/Dent File = Universal Medical/Dental File

U Pharm File = Universal Pharmacy File

U File = Universal File (Med/Dent, Pharm or both)

Warehouse = Aetna's enterprise Data Warehouse (that is, the source of U File data)

**Additions/Changes to CONTENT Since Last Update:** AetInfo made no additions or changes to the U Files since our last bulletin. Therefore, this section exclusively addresses possible future content additions/changes.

- Based largely on feedback from U File recipients, AetInfo has decided NOT to extend the length of our U Files during 2005, although we may use the remaining filler space to add data elements. If we replace filler space with one or more additional data elements (for example, type or model of AHF), file recipients would NOT be impacted. You will have complete flexibility to determine if and when you will begin using these additional items for reporting.
- In 2006, we'll give further consideration to extending the U Med/Dent File from its current length of 1,160 positions to 1,500 positions. These additional 340 positions would enable data elements to continue to be appended to the end of the file. If the U Med/Dent File is extended during 2006, the change would most likely become effective in January or July 2006. We will keep you apprised of our plans and provide sufficient advance notice before introducing a material modification.

**Additions/Changes to DOCUMENTATION Since Last Update:** We've made only minor refinements to U File documentation so far during 2005. Therefore, we haven't posted any revised record layouts or data dictionaries on our Internet website (see link below).

**<http://www.aetna.com/info/aetinfo/>**

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#### **Data CONTENT Alerts (U Med/Dent File):**

From an overall perspective, an Aetna enterprise-wide initiative has the potential to change the content of U Files, primarily in the way ACAS data values are coded and formatted. As we reported in the July 1, 2005 update, we are monitoring the effects of that initiative, in terms of impact on the U Files.

Based on what we have seen so far, these changes have had positive effects, such as the return to Medicare-specific Action or Reason Codes "060" and "065" and Not Covered Amounts. The changes impacting ACAS data were implemented for the March data that began to be reported on a "go forward" basis in April 2005. At present, neither AetInfo nor U File users have identified any new issues related to the upstream initiative.

Dental Claims: In February 2004, AetInfo became aware of dental claim records in which Coinsurance Amounts were duplicated in the Copayment Amount data field. This was reported in the March 1, 2004 *U File Update Bulletin*.

The affected Dental claim records were associated with specific BIC values (Field #13, Benefit Identification Code) of 42001, 43001, 43101, 44000, 44100, 44300, or 44301.

We've now corrected the duplication of Coinsurance Amounts for those dental claims. U File records with a Date Processed (Field #62) on or after March 1, 2005 do not contain Coinsurance Amounts duplicated in the Copayment Amount fields.

If you made any modifications to your intake/load procedures in order to effect a "work around" against overstating Copayment Amount (Field #94), Source Copayment Amount (Field #95), Coinsurance (Field #97) or Source Coinsurance Amount (Field #98), you will need to "back out" those changes, as the incoming Coinsurance Amounts and Copayments are correct. Additional details regarding the findings and impact of this research will follow.

Field #109, Type of Expense – COB, and Field #110, COB Code: AetInfo has identified an issue with an upstream source field that is currently used to derive the value for these fields. This issue causes these fields to be unpopulated or invalid for claim records that were adjudicated in the ACAS claim engine (identifiable as Source System Platform = '27'). We have identified an alternate source field that will enable us to correct this problem. We'll keep you informed of our progress in this effort in future updates.

#### **Data CONTENT Alerts (U Pharm File):**

Field #18, Warehouse-Assigned Member ID: AetInfo has identified an issue specific to the Data Warehouse-Assigned Member ID. Preliminary indications are that in a very low percentage of situations where a "default" Member ID is assigned (which happens only when a valid Member ID can't be assigned, due to missing components in the incoming source member data), the algorithm for assigning that default Member ID may not truly "unique."

This issue has only recently surfaced, and AetInfo is still gathering information and doing research. As stated, we believe that this will be a low-impact issue. Additionally, most users of our self-insured pharmacy data prefer to use the employer-assigned identifiers that are present on the U Pharm File. Those fields -- Employee's SSN (Field #13), Member's SSN (Field #17), and Employer-Assigned Member ID (Field #19) -- are not affected by this issue. We will, of course, keep you informed of any new developments as we find them.

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**Contacts:** Below are the primary contacts for U File questions. All work in the Plan Sponsor Information Services group within AetInfo.

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