

Information about Out-of-Network Claims for Member with PPO and Indemnity Plans

MVP Health Care (MVP) members receive most of their care from health care providers in our network. When you choose to see an out-of-network doctor, the method for reimbursement is different. MVP is changing the way we reimburse providers in these situations.

New York's Attorney General Andrew Cuomo reached an agreement with MVP Health Care that supports his plan to establish a new not-for-profit organization to gather, maintain, and analyze provider reimbursement data for use by health insurers who choose to pay out-of-network providers using usual, customary and reasonable fees.

Like many other health insurers, MVP used Ingenix[®] data to establish usual, customary and reasonable (UCR) reimbursements for out-of-network providers, because Ingenix was the industry standard. MVP only used this database for a very small number of claims, less than one percent of the 12 million claims we process annually. Still, we recognize the Attorney General's concern about conflicts of interest in using the Ingenix database, because it is owned by a health insurance company (United Health Group).

We agreed with the Attorney General that if we continue to pay out-of-network physicians using UCR reimbursement, we will base the payments on data from the Attorney General's new, not-for-profit replacement company for Ingenix, once that company is up and running.

We are replacing the UCR database with the federal government's database for Medicare fees. We would pay a percentage above those fees, and would make adjustments for regional differences, as the government does. This new process is estimated to be in place in July of this year. In the meantime, we will continue to use Ingenix, because it is the only database for UCR rates available to us, until our new process or the Attorney General's new not-for-profit database is available.