
CMS-1500 Completion for Vision Care

Page updated: February 2025

The *Health Insurance Claim Form* (CMS-1500) is used to bill ophthalmological services and eye appliances to the Medi-Cal program. Because Medi-Cal does not supply the *CMS-1500* claim form, providers are required to purchase their forms from a vendor. Claim forms ordered through vendors must include a sensor block (bar code) and red “drop-out” ink.

«Most claims for vision services may also be submitted electronically through the HIPAA-compliant ASC X12N 837 v.5010 claims.» Vision providers may also use the Internet Professional Claims Submission (IPCS) system to submit single claims for processing. «For 837 claims and enrollment information, refer to the *Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) 837 Claims Overview* section in the Part 1 manual. For IPCS information, refer to the [Medi-Cal Provider Portal](#).»

For additional billing information, refer to the *CMS-1500 Special Billing Instructions for Vision Care*, *CMS-1500 Submission and Timeliness Instructions* and *CMS-1500 Tips for Billing* sections in this manual.

CMS-1500 Completion Directions

HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM											
APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC) 02/12											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> PICA </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> PICA </div> </div>											
1. MEDICARE <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRICARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHAMPVA <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP HEALTH PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> FECA BLK LUNG <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> <small>(Medicare#) (Medicaid#) (ID#/DoD#) (Member ID#) (ID#)</small>						1a. INSURED'S I.D. NUMBER (For Program in Item 1) MEDI-CAL ID NUMBER					
2. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial) PATIENT'S LAST NAME, FIRST NAME						3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM DD YY			4. INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial) MOTHER'S NAME FOR NEWBORN		
5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No., Street) PATIENT'S COMPLETE ADDRESS						6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No., Street)		
CITY PATIENT'S CITY			STATE ST			CITY			STATE		
ZIP CODE PATIENT'S 9-DIGIT ZIP			TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) (PATIENT'S PHONE			ZIP CODE			TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)		
9. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)						10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO: a. EMPLOYMENT? (Current or Previous) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO b. AUTO ACCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO c. OTHER ACCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER a. INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM DD YY SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F b. OTHER CLAIM ID (Designated by NUCC) c. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME MEDICARE CARRIER CODE		
12. PATIENT'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize the release of any medical or other information necessary to process this claim. I also request payment of government benefits either to myself or to the party who accepts assignment below. SIGNED NA DATE NA						13. INSURED'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services described below. SIGNED					
14. DATE OF CURRENT ILLNESS, INJURY, or PREGNANCY (LMP) MM DD YY ONSET DATE						15. OTHER DATE MM DD YY			16. DATES PATIENT UNABLE TO WORK IN CURRENT OCCUPATION FROM MM DD YY TO MM DD YY FROM NA TO		
17. NAME OF REFERRING PROVIDER OR OTHER SOURCE NAME OF REFERRING PROVIDER						17a. NPI NPI			18. HOSPITALIZATION DATES RELATED TO CURRENT SERVICES FROM MM DD YY TO MM DD YY FROM DOS TO DOS		
19. ADDITIONAL CLAIM INFORMATION (Designated by NUCC) ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION PLACED HERE						20. OUTSIDE LAB? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY Relate A-L to service line below (24E) ICD Ind.		
21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY Relate A-L to service line below (24E) ICD Ind.						22. RESUBMISSION CODE RESUBMIT CODE			23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER TAR CONTROL NUMBER		
24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE From MM DD YY To MM DD YY B. PLACE OF SERVICE C. EMG D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances) CPT/HCPCS MODIFIER E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER						F. \$ CHARGES G. DAYS OR UNITS H. EPBDT Family Plan I. ID. QUAL. J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #					
QUALIFIER + NDC OR UPN						UNIT QUALIFIER AND QUANTITY			NON-NPI NUMBER		
DOS FROM DOS THRU POS DELAY EMER PROC CODE MODIFIERS						SERVICE CHARGES			Q U A N T I T Y		
1									NPI		
2									NPI		
3									NPI		
4									NPI		
5									NPI		
6									NPI		
25. FEDERAL TAX I.D. NUMBER SSN EIN						26. PATIENT'S ACCOUNT NO. PATIENT ACCOUNT NUMBER			27. ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT? (For gov. claims, see back) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
31. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INCLUDING DEGREES OR CREDENTIALS (I certify that the statements on the reverse apply to this bill and are made a part thereof.) SIGNATURE OF PROVIDER OR PERSON AUTHORIZED SIGNED DATE DATE						32. SERVICE FACILITY LOCATION INFORMATION NAME AND ADDRESS OF SERVICE FACILITY			33. BILLING PROVIDER INFO & PH # (PHONE NUMBER) BILLER ADDRESS		
a. FACILITY NPI						b. NON-NPI NUMBER			a. BILLER NPI		
b. NON-NPI NUMBER									b. NON-NPI NUMBER		

Figure 1: Medi-Cal-Required Fields for Vision Care services.
(Sample CMS-1500 version 02/12).

Explanation of Form Items

The following item numbers and descriptions correspond to the sample *CMS-1500* claim form on the previous page and are unique to Medi-Cal. All items must be completed unless otherwise noted in these instructions.

Note: Items described as “Not required by Medi-Cal” (NA) may be completed for other payers but are not recognized by the Medi-Cal claims processing system.

Undesignated White Space. Do not type in the top one inch of the *CMS-1500* claim form, because this area is reserved for use by the California MMIS Fiscal Intermediary.

***CMS-1500* Form Items and Descriptions Table**

Item	Description
1	<p>Medicare/Medicaid/Other ID. If the claim is a Medi-Cal claim, enter an “X” in the Medicaid box. If submitting a Medicare/Medi-Cal claim, use a copy of the original <i>CMS-1500</i> claim form billed to Medicare and enter an “X” in both the <i>Medicaid</i> and <i>Medicare</i> boxes.</p> <p>Note: For more information about crossover claims, refer to the <i>Medicare/Medi-Cal Crossover Claims: CMS-1500</i> section in the appropriate Part 2 manual.</p>
1a	<p>Insured’s ID Number. «Enter the recipient identification number as it appears on the plastic Benefits Identification Card (BIC), paper Medi-Cal ID card or Medi-Cal Eligibility Confirmation Letter.»</p>
2	<p>Patient’s Name. Enter the recipient’s last name, first name, middle initial (if known).</p>
3	<p>Patient’s Birth Date/Sex. Enter the recipient’s date of birth in six-digit MMDDYY (Month, Day, Year) format. Enter an “X” in the “M” or “F” box. If the recipient’s full date of birth is not available, enter the year preceded by 0101.</p>

«**CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)**»

Item	Description
4	<p>Insured's Name. Not required by Medi-Cal, except when billing for an infant using the mother's ID. Enter the mother's name in this field when billing for the infant.</p> <p>When submitting a claim for a newborn infant using the mother's ID number and the infant has not yet been named, write the mother's last name followed by "Baby Boy" or "Baby Girl" (example: Jones, Baby Girl) in Box 2 (Patient's Name) of the <i>CMS-1500</i> claim form.</p> <p>Services rendered to an infant may be billed with the mother's ID for the month of birth and the following month only. After this time, the infant must have his or her own Medi-Cal ID number.</p>
5	Patient's Address/Telephone. Enter recipient's complete address and telephone number.
6	Patient Relationship to Insured. Not required by Medi-Cal. This field may be used when billing for an infant using the mother's ID by checking the <i>Child</i> box.
7	Insured's Address. Not required by Medi-Cal.
8	Reserved for NUCC Use. Not required by Medi-Cal.
9	Other Insured's Name. Not required by Medi-Cal.
9a	Other Insured's Policy or Group Number. Not required by Medi-Cal.
9b	Reserved for NUCC Use. Not required by Medi-Cal.
9c	Reserved for NUCC Use. Not required by Medi-Cal.
9d	Insurance Plan Name or Program Name. Not required by Medi-Cal.
10	Is Patient's Condition Related to:
10a	Is Patient's Condition Related to Employment. Complete this field if services were related to an accident or injury. Enter an "X" in the Yes box if accident/injury is employment related. Enter an "X" in the No box if accident/injury is not employment related. If either box is checked, the date of the accident must be entered in Box 14.
10b	Is Patient's Condition Related to Auto Accident/Place. Not required by Medi-Cal.
10c	Is Patient's Condition Related to Other Accident. Not required by Medi-Cal.
10d	Claim Codes (Designated by NUCC). Enter the amount of recipient's Share of Cost (SOC) for the procedure, service or supply.

«**CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)**»

Item	Description
11	Insured's Policy Group or FECA Number. Enter the amount of recipient's Share of Cost (SOC) for the procedure, service or supply.
11a	Insured's Date of Birth/Sex. Not required by Medi-Cal.
11b	Other Claim ID (Designated by NUCC). Not required by Medi-Cal.
11c	Insurance Plan Name or Program Name. For Medicare/Medi-Cal crossover claims. Enter your Medicare Carrier Code. Note: Providers may refer to their <i>Medicare Remittance Notice</i> (MRN) for the carrier code to enter in this field.
11d	Is There Another Health Benefit Plan? Enter an "X" in the Yes box if recipient has Other Health Coverage (OHC). If the OHC has paid, enter the amount in the upper right side of this field. Note: Eligibility under Medicare or a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCP) is <u>not</u> considered Other Health Coverage.
12	Patient's or Authorized Person's Signature. Not required by Medi-Cal.
13	Insured's or Authorized Person's Signature. Not required. However, providers may note the Eligibility Verification Confirmation (EVC) number in this box.
14	Date of Current Illness, Injury or Pregnancy (LMP). Enter the date of onset of the recipient's illness, the date of accident/injury.
15	Other Date. Not required by Medi-Cal.
16	Dates Patient Unable to Work in Current Occupation. Not required by Medi-Cal.
17	Name of Referring Provider or Other Source. Indent to the right of the dotted line and enter the name of the referring provider or other source. When billing services by a chiropractor for residents of skilled nursing facilities, include the name of the facility in this field.
17a	Unlabeled. Not required by Medi-Cal.
17b	NPI. Enter the NPI for the referring provider or other source. When billing services by a chiropractor for residents of skilled nursing facilities, include the name of the facility in this field.

«**CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)**»

Item	Description
18	Hospitalization Dates Related to Current Services. Enter the dates of hospital admission and discharge, if the services are related to hospitalization. If the patient has not been discharged, leave the discharge date blank.
19	<p>Additional Claim Information (Designated by NUCC). Use this area for procedures that require additional information, justification or an Emergency Certification Statement.</p> <p>Refer to the policy sections of this manual for CPT®/HCPCS codes that require additional justification. If the information requested requires additional space than what is provided in Box 19, include a separate attachment on an 8½ by 11-inch sheet of paper with the claim.</p> <p>If electronically filing a claim with attachments, enter the Attachment Control Number (ACN) from the Attachment Control Form (ACF).</p>
20	Outside Lab? If this claim includes charges for laboratory work performed by a licensed laboratory, enter an "X." "Outside" laboratory refers to a laboratory not affiliated with the billing provider. State in Box 19 that a specimen was sent to an unaffiliated laboratory. Leave blank if not applicable.
21	<p>Diagnosis or Nature of Illness or Injury. Relate A - L to service line below (24E).</p> <p>ICD Ind. Enter the ICD indicator "0" for claims that will be received by the Fiscal Intermediary with dates of service on or after October 1, 2015. Claims submitted without a diagnosis code do not require an ICD indicator.</p>
21.A/21.B	<p>Diagnosis or Nature of Illness or Injury. Enter all letters and/or numbers of the ICD-10-CM code for the <u>primary</u> diagnosis, including fourth through seventh characters, if present. (Do <u>not</u> enter decimal point.)</p> <p>Note: For vision services, enter up to two diagnosis codes in Fields 21.A and 21.B. Do not enter more than two diagnosis codes. If billing for multiple procedure codes that require different diagnosis codes than what can be entered in Fields 21.A and 21.B, use a separate claim.</p>

«**CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)**»

Item	Description
21.C thru L	Diagnosis or Nature of Illness or Injury. Not required by Medi-Cal.
22	<p>Resubmission Code/Original Ref. No. Medicare status codes are required for Charpentier claims. In all other circumstances, these codes are optional.</p> <p>The Medicare status codes «and explanations are as follows»:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0: Younger than 65, does not have Medicare coverage • 1*: Benefits exhausted • 2*: Utilization committee denial or physician non-certification • 3*: No prior hospital stay • 4*: Facility denial • 5*: Non-eligible provider • 6*: Non-eligible recipient • 7*: Medicare benefits denied or cut short by Medicare intermediary • 8: Non-covered services • 9*: PSRO denial • L*: Medi/Medi Charpentier: Benefit Limitation • R*: Medi/Medi Charpentier: Rate Limitation • T*: Medi/Medi Charpentier: Both Rates and Benefit Limitation
23	<p>Prior Authorization Number. For vision care services requiring a <i>Treatment Authorization Request (TAR)</i>, enter the 10-digit TAR Control Number followed by the Pricing Indicator (PI) located on the <i>Adjudication Response (AR)</i>.</p>

CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)

Item	Description
24.1	<p>Claim Line. Information for completing a claim line follows in Items 24A thru 24J. Refer to the <i>CMS-1500 Special Billing Instructions</i> for Vision Care section in this manual for more information.</p> <p>Note: Do not enter data in the shaded area, except for Box 24C.</p>
24A	<p>Date(s) of Service. Enter the date the service was rendered in the “From” and “To” boxes in the six-digit, MMDDYY (Month, Day, Year) format.</p>
24B	<p>Place of Service. Enter code indicating where service was rendered.</p> <p>The place of service codes and descriptions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • «02: Telehealth Provided Other than in Patient’s Home • 10: Telehealth Provided in Patient’s Home» • 11: Office • 12: Home • 21: Inpatient Hospital • 22: Outpatient Hospital • 23: Emergency Room (Hospital) • 24: Ambulatory Surgical Center • 25: Birthing Center • 31: Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) • 32: Nursing Facility • 53: Community Mental Health Center • 54: Intermediate Care Facility – Mentally Retarded • 65: End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facility • 71: Public Health Clinic • 72: Rural Health Clinic • 81: Independent Laboratory • 99: Other Place of Service (Describe in <i>Additional Claim Information</i> field [Box 19])

CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)

Item	Description
24C	<p>EMG. Emergency or delay reason codes.</p> <p>Delay Reason Code: If there is no emergency indicator in Box 24C, and only a delay reason code is placed in this box, enter it in the unshaded, bottom portion of the box. If there is an emergency indicator, enter the delay reason in the top shaded portion of this box. Include the required documentation. Only one delay reason code is allowed per claim. If more than one is present, the first occurrence will be applied to the entire claim. (Refer to the <i>CMS-1500 Submission and Timeliness Instructions</i> section in this manual.)</p> <p>Emergency Code: Only one emergency indicator is allowed per claim and must be placed in the bottom unshaded portion of Box 24C. Leave this box blank unless billing for emergency services. «Enter an "X" or "Y" if an Emergency Certification Statement is attached to this claim or entered in Box 19.» The Emergency Certification Statement is required for all OBRA/IRCA recipients, and any service rendered under emergency conditions that would otherwise have required authorization, such as, emergency services by allergists, podiatrists, medical transportation providers, portable imaging providers, psychiatrists and out-of-state providers. These statements must be signed and dated by the provider and must be supported by a physician, podiatrist, dentist, or pharmacist's statement, describing the nature of the emergency, including relevant clinical information about the patient's condition. A mere statement that an emergency existed is not sufficient.</p>
24D	<p>Procedures, Services or Supplies. Enter the applicable procedure code (HCPCS or CPT) and a modifier, if required.</p>
24E	<p>Diagnosis Pointer. As required by Medi-Cal.</p>
24F	<p>Charges. In full dollar amount, enter the usual and customary fee for service(s).</p> <p>Note: When billing "outside" laboratory work, enter the actual amount charged by the laboratory in Box 24F. Handling charges must be billed as a separate line item.</p>

CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)

Item	Description
24G	Days or Units. Enter the number of medical “visits” or procedures, surgical “lesions,” hours of “detention time,” units of anesthesia time, items or units of service, etc. Note: Providers billing for units of time should enter the time in 15-minute increments (for example, for one hour, enter “4”).
24H	« Family Plan. Enter code “1” or “2” if the services rendered are related to family planning (FP). Leave blank if not applicable.»
24I	ID Qualifier for Rendering Provider. Not required by Medi-Cal.
24J	Rendering Provider ID Number. Enter the NPI for a rendering provider (unshaded area) if the provider is billing under a group NPI. If the provider is not billing under a group NPI, leave this field blank in order for claims to be reimbursed correctly. This applies to all services.
24.2 thru 24.6	Additional Claim Lines. Follow instructions for each claim line.
25	Federal Tax I.D. Number. Not required by Medi-Cal.
26	Patient’s Account No. This is an optional field that will help providers to easily identify a recipient on a <i>Remittance Advice Details</i> (RAD). Enter the patient’s medical record number or account number in this field. A maximum of 10 numbers and/or letters may be used. Whatever is entered here will appear on the RAD. Refer to the <i>Remittance Advice Details</i> (RAD) examples section in this manual.
27	Accept Assignment. Not required by Medi-Cal.
28	Total Charge. Enter the full dollar amount, for all services, without the decimal point (.) or dollar sign (\$). For example, \$100 should be entered as “10000.”
29	Amount Paid. Enter the amount of payment received from the Other Health Coverage (Box 11d) and patient’s Share of Cost (Box 10d).

«**CMS-1500 Form Items and Descriptions Table (continued)**»

Item	Description
30	Rsvd for NUCC Use. Effective September 22, 2014, providers no longer complete this field.
31	<p>Signature of Physician or Supplier Including Degrees or Credentials. The claim must be signed and dated by the provider or a representative assigned by the provider in black ballpoint ink.</p> <p>Providers that fill another provider's prescription must keep a copy of the prescription in the recipient's medical record, which must be made available for state review if requested.</p> <p>Note: Signatures must be written, not printed, and should not extend outside the box. Stamps, initials or facsimiles are not accepted.</p>
32	Service Facility Location Information. Not required for vision services.
33	<p>Billing Provider Info and Phone Number. Enter the provider name, address, nine-digit ZIP code and telephone number.</p> <p>Note: The nine-digit ZIP code entered in this box must match the biller's ZIP code on file for claims to be reimbursed correctly.</p>
33a	Enter the billing provider's NPI.
33b	<p>Used for atypical providers only. Enter the Medi-Cal provider number for the billing provider.</p> <p>Note: Do not submit claims using a Medicare provider number or State license number. Claims from providers and/or billing services that consistently bill with identifiers other than the NPI (or Medi-Cal provider number for atypical providers) will be denied.</p>

Deleting Information Items 24A thru 24J

If an error has been made to specific billing information entered on Items 24A thru 24J, draw a line through the entire detail line using a blue or black ballpoint pen. Enter the correct billing information on another line.

Note: Do not “black-out” entire claim line. Deleted information may be used to determine previous payment.

	24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE						B. PLACE OF SERVICE	C. EMG	D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES		E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER	F. \$ CHARGES	G. DAYS OR UNITS	H. EPSDT Family Plan	I. ID QUAL	J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #	PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER INFORMATION
	From MM	DD	YY	To MM	DD	YY			OPT/HOPCS	MODIFIER							
1	11	01	05				11		97810	A3		50.00	1		NPI	0123456789	
2	11	01	05				11		97810	A1		75.00	1		NPI	0123456789	
3															NPI		
4															NPI		
5															NPI		
6															NPI		

Figure 2: Sample of Deleted Information.

Check Digits

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) assigns a check digit to each provider to verify accurate input of the provider number. The check digit is not a required item. However, including the check digit ensures that reimbursement for the claim is made to the correct provider. Providers should enter their check digit to the right of the Medi-Cal provider number in Box 33B. Providers who do not know their check digit should contact the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555.

«Legend»

«Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.»

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.
*	This is a symbol indicating that documentation is required