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How to use the National Managed Care Contract database

National Managed Care Contract database content

The National Managed Care Contract (NMCC) database tool contains a number of resources designed to help physicians analyze and negotiate managed care contracts and to empower those who advocate for physicians via legislative, regulatory and judicial venues. The NMCC attempts to comply with the legal requirements of all 50 states and the District of Columbia and takes into account rare exceptions where such compliance is not possible due to the nature of a particular state statute or regulation. The NMCC database tool includes the following areas:

- **Preface:** Description of the origin and manner of the NMCC's current and prospective development as well as its purpose and limitations.

- **NMCC language:** Twenty-two managed care contract articles, which contain specific provisions designed to comply with all legal requirements and address a broad range of physician concerns that frequently arise with respect to the business relationship between contracted physicians and managed care organizations. Each provision includes citations to every law on which the language is based.

- **State specific exceptions:** An appendix containing the state statutes and regulations that could not be reconciled with the NMCC articles. These few state statutes and regulations are the only ones with which the NMCC articles do not attempt to comply.

- **Issue briefs:** Twelve in-depth discussions of and advocacy tools regarding managed care contracting issues that are of particular concern to physicians.

- **AMA policy:** All AMA policies related to the issues addressed in the NMCC.

■ **State laws:** Full text of all the statutes and regulations of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that regulate: (1) the managed care contracting process; (2) the managed care contract itself; or (3) the business relationship that arises between the physician and managed care organization after the physician and managed care organization have signed the managed care agreement.

NMCC database functionality: Search function

There are three ways to navigate the database:

Table of contents navigation:

When you select any section of the table of contents, it will expand to display the complete content of that section, enabling you to hyperlink directly to the section you are interested in.

Keyword search:

■ When you enter a single keyword, search results will display all content that contains that word.

■ When you enter a phrase in quotation marks (for example, "clean claim"), search results will display all content that contains that exact phrase.

■ When you enter two words separated by the word "and" (for example, "interest and claim"), search results will display all content that contains both words.

■ When you enter two words separated by the word "or" (for example, "interest or claim"), search results will display all content that contains either one of those words.

Citation search:

You can search for laws or regulations from a particular state by selecting "Law Text" and then entering the particular citation. Note that you do not need to enter the exact citation. (For example, if you wished to retrieve Cal Bus & Prof Code § 511.4, you could enter "511.4" as the search term.)

You can search either the entire database content or specific categories of the database:

■ **Everything:** Search results will display content from the NMCC (including the preface), issue briefs, related AMA policy and law text.

■ **National Managed Care Contract Language:** Search results will display content from the NMCC only. (This includes the preface, recitals, articles and appendix of state-specific exceptions.)

■ **Issue Briefs:** Search results will display content from the issue briefs only.

■ **AMA Policy:** Search results will display content from AMA policy only.

■ **Law Text:** Search results will display content from state laws only.

You can also perform searches of state statutes and regulations for one state, all states or multiple states of your choice—up to five states at once. (For example, you could search for the phrase "clean claim" in the statutes and regulations of California only; all 50 states and the District of Columbia; or Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.)

NMCC database functionality: Compare function

Select and compare various results that have been displayed after a search. Once you see the search results, you can select the items you would like to compare. You can compare items from NMCC language, issue briefs, AMA policy, and state statutes and regulations. (For example, if you search in "Everything" for "interest," you can compare particular AMA policies, specific state statutes or regulations, and articles of the NMCC from the search results.) Simply select the results you want to compare by checking the box to the left of that result.

Once you have selected items to compare, select the "Compare" button in the top right corner of the search results screen. This will take you to another screen that displays only the items that you previously selected.

NMCC database functionality: References

"AMA Policy" reference
When you see search results for NMCC language, you might also see reference to "AMA Policy." Selecting this link displays all the AMA policies that relate to that NMCC language.

"Law Text" reference
When you see search results for NMCC language, you might also see reference to "Law Text." This reference is accompanied by initials one or more states. The state initials are highlighted in one of three colors, which indicate the relationship of the law text to the NMCC provisions. Selecting any one of these links displays the statute or regulation related to that NMCC provision. The three relationships are:

- **Incorporated Law Text** is a statute or regulation upon which an NMCC provision is based. The state initials are highlighted green.

- **Related Law Text** is a statute or regulation related to an NMCC provision but which does not form the basis of an NMCC provision. The state initials are highlighted purple.

- **State Specific Exception** is a statute or regulation to which the NMCC does not conform. The state initials are highlighted red.

"NMCC" reference
When you see search results for law text, you will see a reference to "NMCC." This reference indicates how many times this particular law was used in connection with the NMCC provisions and what the laws relationship is to those provisions. The three relationships are:

- **Incorporated Law Text** is a statute or regulation upon which an NMCC provision is based. The reference is highlighted green.

- **Related Law Text** is a statute or regulation related to an NMCC provision but which does not form the basis of an NMCC provision. The reference is highlighted purple.

- **State Specific Exception** is a statute or regulation to which the NMCC does not conform. The reference is highlighted red.

(For example, if you search for "interest," and one of the statutes or regulations is followed by "NMCC: This law is incorporated into 5 provisions," it means that this particular statute or regulation served as a basis for five different provisions of the NMCC. This link will take you to the related NMCC contract language.)

NMCC database functionality: Print function
There are two ways to print information from the database:

- From the Search results page, select any one of the hyperlinks in the search results to display the full text. The print option is available when the full text is displayed.

- From the Compare page, select "Print" in the top right corner of the screen. All of the display results that you have chosen to compare will then be printed.

Contact the AMA

If at any time you have questions regarding the NMCC database, e-mail the AMA at **nationalcontract@ama-assn.org** for assistance.