

CMS-1500 vs UB-04 Infographic

A beginner comparison of professional and institutional claim form contexts.

TYPE Infographic

WHO Medical Billing VAs, AR learners, claims learners, and healthcare admin beginners.

WHEN Use when learning why claim type, provider type, and place of service affect billing workflow.

HOW Compare the form purpose, common users, and workflow risk before reading a claim or account status.

Workflow stage: Middle RCM - claim form and claim type awareness

CMS-1500

Commonly used for professional claims such as physician, clinic, or therapist services.

UB-04

Commonly used for facility or institutional claims such as hospital or skilled nursing facility billing.

Professional

Usually focuses on professional services, rendering provider, CPT/HCPCS, diagnosis, POS, units.

Institutional

Often includes facility revenue details, bill type, admission/discharge, and institutional fields.

Why it matters

Wrong claim type or missing fields can cause rejection, denial, or payer processing delay.

Verify source

Follow employer/client billing system, payer rules, and claim-type setup.

COMMON MISTAKE AVOIDED

Avoid assuming every healthcare service uses the same claim form.

NO-PHI REMINDER

Do not use or enter real patient names, dates of birth, insurance IDs, member IDs, claim numbers, medical record numbers, addresses, phone numbers, diagnoses, treatment details, login details, or protected health information. Use fictional data only when practicing.

EDUCATIONAL DISCLAIMER

This resource is for beginner-friendly healthcare admin education only. It is not medical advice, legal advice, coding certification, payer-specific billing authority, a replacement for employer training, or a guarantee of employment. Always verify current requirements with official sources, employer policy, payer rules, client instructions, and updated guidance.

SOURCE / REVIEW NOTE

This beginner resource explains general claim and billing workflow concepts. Requirements can vary by payer, plan, provider type, specialty, place of service, contract, and current policy. Last reviewed: July 2026.