UnitedHealth to Close Database, Settled Suit

BY MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER New York Bureau

s part of an agreement with New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, UnitedHealth Group has agreed to shut down a national billing database used by health plans to determine reimbursements to members who use out-of-network physician services.

The billing database, which is operated by the UnitedHealth Group (UHG) subsidiary Ingenix Inc., will be replaced with a new, independent database run by a qualified nonprofit organization. Under the terms of the agreement, UHG will pay \$50 million to help establish the new database. In addition, the nonprofit organization will develop a public Web site where consumers can research-before seeking services-how much they may be reimbursed for common out-ofnetwork medical services in their area.

Aetna, the nation's third largest insurer, also has entered into an agreement with the New York attorney general to abandon its use of the Ingenix database in favor of the new one. Aetna also will contribute \$20 million over 5 years for the creation of the new database.

In February 2009, Aetna reached an agreement with the New York Attorney General's office to pay \$5.1 million to reimburse patients and physicians for claims involving out-of-network care. The settlement addresses charges that Aetna underpaid college student health insurance claims between 1998 and 2008 by more than \$5 million. Aetna will now pay back the students, and in some cases their physicians, for the underpayments plus interest and penalties as calculated under state law. The agreement reached with the New York Attorney General will affect underpayments made to students across the country.

The agreements follow an investigation by Mr. Cuomo's office into allegations that insurers were systematically underpaying consumers for their out-ofnetwork medical expenses by saying that physician charges were higher than the 'usual, customary, and reasonable" rates as calculated by the Ingenix database. As a result, insurers would only pay a percentage of the lower "usual, customary, and reasonable" rate, leaving consumers to pay their own portion plus the balance of the bill.

The investigation found that insurers were underpaying consumers for out-ofnetwork expenses by 10%-28% for medical services across the state.

According to UHG officials, the agreement with the New York attorney general will help increase the transparency of information related to physician fees for out-of-network services.

Just days after reaching an agreement with Mr. Cuomo's office, UHG also settled a lawsuit with the American Medical Association and two state medical associations over the use of the Ingenix database. The \$350 million settlement is the largest monetary settlement of a class action lawsuit against a single health insurer in the United States, according to the AMA.

The suit, which has been pending since 2000, alleged that UHG had been understating the "usual, customary, and reasonable" charges in payments to physicians and in reimbursing patients for out-of-network expenses. Under the class action settlement, UHG subscribers who submitted a claim for out-of-network services and were not properly reimbursed

are eligible to receive part of the settlement. Physicians also could be eligible to receive payment under the settlement if they were underpaid by UHG and did not receive the balance from the patient.

But the biggest gain for physicians under both the AMA settlement and the agreement with the New York attorney general won't be money, but the rebuilding of the trust lost between patients and physicians, said Dr. Nancy H.

Nielsen, president of the AMA.

When UHG and other insurers refused to pay the physician's charge, they were telling patients that the charge was unreasonable, creating tension between the patient and physician, said Dr. Michael H. Rosenberg, president of the Medical Society of the State of New York, which was part of the AMA's class action lawsuit. "This was always a wedge between patients and physicians."

- Carefully sound the uterus prior to Mirena insertion to determine the degree of patency of the endocervical canal and the internal os, and the direction and depth of the uterine cavity. In occasional cases, severe cervical stensis may be encountered. Do not use excessive force to overcome this resistance. Fundal positioning of Mirena is important to prevent expusion and maximize efficacy. Therefore, follow the instructions for the insertion carefully. If the patient develops decreased pulse, perspiration, or pallor, have her remain and/or bleeding. Syncope, bradycardia, or other neurovascular episodes may occur during insertion of Mirena, especially in patients with a predisposition to these conditions or cervical stensis.
 - Considering and the possibility of etholic prename with a predisposition to these conditions or cervical stepsos.
 Continuation and Removal
 Reexamine and evaluate patients 4 to 12 weeks after insertion and once a year thereafter, or more frequently if clinically indicated.
 If the threads are not visible, they may have retracted into the uterus or broken, or Mirena may have broken, perforated the uterus, or been expelled (see WARNINGS, Perforation and Expusion), if the length of the threads has changed from the length at time of insertion. The system may have become displaced. Pregnancy must be excluded and the location of Mirena vertified, for example, by sonography, X-ray, or by gentle exploration of the uterine cavity with a probe. If Mirena is displaced, remove it. A new Mirena may be inserted at that time or during the next menses if it is certain that conception has not occurred. If Mirena is in place with new dividence of perforation, no intervention is indicated.
 Promptly examine users with complaints of pain, odorous discharge, unexplained bedrading sor sorses.
 Consider the possibility of ectopic prenamory in the cave of hourse above it and we intervention.

 - peeding (see WARNINGS, Irregular Bleeding and Amenorrhea), Tever, genital lesions or sores.
 Consider the possibility of ectopic pregnancy in the case of lower abdominal pain especially in association with missed periods or if an amenorrheic woman starts bleeding (see WARNINGS, Ectopic Pregnancy).
 In the event a pregnancy is confirmed during Mirena use:
 Determine whether pregnancy is ectopic and, is o, take appropriate measures.
 Inform patient of the risks of leaving Mirena in place or removing it during pregnancy and of the lack of data on long-term effects on the offspring or women who have had Mirena in place during conception or gestation (see WARNINGS, Intrauterion Pregnancy).
 If possible, Mirena should be removed after the patient should be counseled and offered pregnancy termination.

 - risks of removal. If removal is difficult, the patient should be counseled and offered pregnancy termination. If Mirena is left in place, the patient's course should be followed closely. Should the patient's redistinstip cases to be mutually monogamous, or should her patrier become HV positive, or acquire a sexually transmitted disease, she should be instructed to report this change to her clinician immediately. The use of a barrier method as a partial protection against acquiring sexually transmitted diseases should be be strongly recommended. Removal of Mirena should be considered. Mirena should be ermoved for the following metical reasons:
 "menormagia and/or metrorrhagia producing amenia acquiring sexually transmitted disease
 super structure disease is particular disease. Should be sace to the construct of the following metical reasons:
 "menormagia and/or metrorrhagia producing amenia acquiring formue deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
 sexually transmitted disease
 symptomatic genital actinomycosis
 intractable petic pain
 severe dyspareunia
 severe dyspareunia

 - severe bysareunia
 programby
 endometria or cenvical malignancy
 endometria or cenvical perforation
 memoral of the system should also be considered if any of the following conditions
 arise for the first time:
 migraine, local migraine with asymmetrical visual loss or other symptoms
 indicating transient central ischemia
 exceptionally severe headche
 jaudica
 exceptionally severe headche
 jaudica
 severe raterial disease such as stoke or myocardial infarction
 Removal may be associated with pain and/or bleeding or neurovascular episodes.
 Therance

5 Glucose Tole lucose Tolerance norgestrel may affect glucose tolerance, and the blood glucose concentration Id be monitored in diabetic users of Mirena.

Should be intermediate an exercise of the contraceptive efficacy of Mirena has not been studied. The influence of drugs on the contraceptive efficacy of Mirena has not been studied the metabolism of progestogens may be increased by concomitant use of substances known to induce drug-metabolizing liver enzymes, specifically cytochrome P450 enzymes.

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releasing intrauterine system nervices and the second system of the system nervices and the system nervices and the system nervices and the system nervices and the system of the system of the system nervices and the system of the system of

10. Pediatric Use Safety and efficacy of Mirena have been established in women of reproductive age. Use of this product before menarche is not indicated.

11. Geriatric Use Mirena has not been studied in women over age 65 and is not currently approved for use in this population. 12. Return to Fertility About 80% of women wishing to become pregnant conceived within 12 months after removal of Mirena.

removal of Mirena. **ADVERSE REACTIONS** The most serious adverse reactions associated with the use of Mirena are discussed above in the **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS** sections. Very common adverse reactions (>1/10 users) include uterine/varginal bleeding (including spotting, irregular bleeding, heavy bleeding, oligomenorrhea and amenorrhea) and ovarian cysts. Other adverse events are listed below using MedDRA (9.0) terms. Adverse reactions reported by 5% or Modominal/petic pain Vaginal discharge Nausea

- Nausea Headache
- Breast pain/tende

- rre creased libido pressed mood rvicitis/Papanicolaou smear normal, class II pertension her relevant reported adverse reactions occurring in less than 5% of subjects include: igraine, vorniting, anemia, dyspareunia, alopecia, eczema, pruntus, rash, urticana, dominal distension, altered mood, hirsuitism, demena.

and uservation, name of most in solaring each during post approval use of Mirena likowing adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of Mirena breakage and angioedma. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from likita a cusal reliationship to drug exposure.

Manufactured for

- (BAYER) Bayer HealthCare
 - Pharmaceuticals
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Manufactured in Finland

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and Removal). Symptoms of the partial or complete expulsion of any LUD may include bleeding or pain However, the system can be expelled from the uterine cavity without the woman noticing it Partial expulsion may deverage the effectiveness of Mirerau. As mensional flow typical decreases after the first 3 to 6 months of Mirerau aus, an increase of menstrual flow inary be indicative of an expulsion. If expulsion has occurred. Mirerau may be replaced within 7 days of a menstrual period after pregnancy has been ruled out.

7 days of a menstrul period after pregnancy has been ruled out. 9. **Ovarian (Cysts)** Since the contraceptive effect of Mirena is mainly due to its local effect, ovulatory cycles with folicular rupture usually occur in women of fertile age using Mirena. Sometimes atresia of the follicle is delayed and the follicle may continue to grow. Enlarged follicies have been diagnosed in about 12% of the subjects using Mirena. Most of these follicles are asymptomatic, although some may be accompanied by pelvic pain or dysparemia. In most cases the enlarged follicles disappear spontaneously during two to three months observation. Persistent enlarged follicles should be evaluated. Surgical intervention is not usually remired.

10. Breast Cancer Women who currently have or have had breast cancer, or have a suspicion of breast cancer, should not use hormonal contraception because breast cancer is a hormone-sensitive tumor.

normone-sensitive tumor: Spontaneous reports of breast cancer have been received during postmarketing experience with Mirena. Because spontaneous reports are voluntary and from a population of uncertain size. It is not possible to use post-marketing data to reliably estimate the frequency or establish causal relationship to drug exposure. Two observational studies have not provide vedneco of an increased risk of breast cancer during the use of Mirena.

Itale to up vortex or variety of sources have been analyzed to estimate the risk of death associated with various methods of contraception. These estimates include the combined risk of the contraceptive method plus the risk of pregnancy or abortion in the event of method failure. The findings of the analysis are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Annual Number of Birth-Related or Method-Related Deaths Associated with Control of Ferlinity per 100,000 Nonsterile Women, by Ferlility Control Method According to Age ACE CROUP

	P					
METHODS	15–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years
No Birth Control Method/Term	4.7	5.4	4.8	6.3	11.7	20.6
No Birth Control Method/Abortion	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.9	2.8	5.3
IUD Periodic Abstinence Withdrawal	0.2 1.4 0.9	0.3 1.3 1.7	0.2 0.7 0.9	0.1 1.0 1.3	0.3 1.0 0.8	0.6 1.9 1.5
Condom Diaphragm/Cap Sponge	0.6 0.6 0.8	1.2 1.1 1.5	0.6 0.6 0.8	0.9 0.9 1.1	0.5 1.6 2.2	1.0 3.1 4.1
Spermicides Oral Contraceptives	1.6 0.8	1.9 1.3	1.4 1.1 0.5	1.9 1.8	1.5 1.0	2.7 1.9
Implants/Injectables Tubal Sterilization Vasectomy	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.8 1.1 0.1	0.5 1.2 0.1	0.6 1.3 0.2

Harlap S. et al., Preventing Pregnancy, protecting health: a new look at birth choices in the US. The Alan Guttmacher Institute 1991: 1-129

PRECAUTIONS PATIENTS SHOULD BE COUNSELED THAT THIS PRODUCT DOES NOT PROTECT Against hiv infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

PATIENTS SHUULD be CUURACLED TIME TIME TRANSMITTED DISCASES. 1. Patient Counseling Information Prior to insertion, give the patient the Patient Information Booket. She should be given the opportunity to read the information and discuss fully any questions she may have concerning Mirena as well as other methods of contraception. Also, advise the patient that the prescribing information is available to her upon request. Careful and objective counseling of the patient prior to insertion regarding the expected bleeding patient, the possible inter-individual variation in changes in bleeding, including amenormea, and the etiology of the changes may have an effect on the frequency of patient-requested removal. The patient should be informed that some bleeding such as irregular or prolonged bleeding adjustion, afford cramps may occur during the first few weeks after insertion. If her symptoms continue or are severe she should report them to her healthcare provider. She should also be given instructions on what other symptoms require her to call her healthcare provider. She should be instructed on how to check after her menstrual period to make cartain that the thread shill protude from the cervix and cautioned not to put on the threads and displace Mirena. She should be informed that there is no contraceptive protection in *Mirena* is displaced or expelled.

Patient Evaluation and Clinical Considerations
 A complete medical and social history, including that of the partner, should be obtained to determine conditions that might influence the selection of an IUD for contraception (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

A complete medical and social history, including that of the partner, should be obtained to determine conditions that might influence the selection of an IUD for contraception (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).
NOTE: Special attention must be given to ascertaining whether the worman is at increased risk of infection (for example, leukemia, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), IV. drug abuse), or thas a history of PID unless there has been a subsequent intrauterine pregnancy. Mirena is contraindicated in these wormen.
A physical examination should include a pelvic examination, a Pap smare, examination of the breasts, and appropriate tests for any other forms of genital or other sexually transmitted diseases, such as gonorrhea and chlamydia laboratory evaluations, if indicated. Use of Mirena in patients with vaginitis or cervicits should be postponed until proper treatment has enalcated the infection and until if has been shown that the cervicits is not due to gonorrhea on chlamydia (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).
Iregular biseding may mask symptoms and signs of endometrial polyps or cancer. Because irregular biseding/spotting is common during the first months of Mirena ause, exclude endometrial pathology prior to the insertion of Mirena in women with presistent or uncharacteristic biseding and Amenorrhea.)
The healthcare provider should determine that the patient is not pregnant. The possibility of insertion of Mirena and the presence of an existing undetermined pregnancy is complete in order to reduce thin 7 days of the onset of a menstrual period. Mirena can be replaced by a new system at any time in the cycle. Mirena should not be inserted inminiciated; after first immiser abortion.
Mirena should on to enserted until 6 weeks postpartum or until involution of the uterus is complete in order to reduce the incidence of perforation and exputision. If involution is substantially delayed, consider waiting until 12 weeks postpartum or until involution of the uterus is submited and the inc

The risk of perforation may be increased in lactating women, in women with fixed retroverted uteri, and during the postpartum period. To decrease the risk of perforation postpartum, Mirera insertion should be delayed a minimum of 6 weeks after delivery or until uterine involution is complete. If involution is substantially delayed, consider waiting until 12 weeks postpartum. Inserting Mirena immediately after first timester abortion is not known to increase the risk of perforation, but insertion after second trimester abortion should be delayed until uterine involution is complete. BRIEF SUMMARY Consult Package Insert for Full Prescribing Inform 8. Expulsion Partial or complete expulsion of Mirena may occur (see PRECAUTIONS, Co and Removal). PATIENTS SHOULD BE COUNSELED THAT THIS PRODUCT DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST HIV INFECTION (AIDS) AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

- Romby NDICATIONS AND USAGE Mirena is indicated for intrauterine contraception for up to 5 years. Thereafter, if continued contraception is desired, the system should be replaced. Mirena is recommended for women who have had at least one child.
- A representation of worker with a weak one clinic.
 CONTRAINDICATIONS
 Mirena is contraindicated when one or more of the following conditions exist:
 1. Pregnancy or suspicion of pregnancy.
 2. Congenital or acquired uterine anomaly including fibroids if they distort the uterine cavity.

(levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system)

- Congenital or acquired uterine anomaly including fibroids if they distort the uterine cavity.
 Acute pekic inflammatory disease or a history of pekic inflammatory disease unless there has been a subsequent intrauterine prognancy.
 Postpartum endometritis or infected abortion in the past 3 months.
 Known or suspediet uterine or centrical neoplasia or unresolved, abnormal Pap smear.
 Genital bleeding of unknown etiology.
 Totimated acute cervicitis or vaginitis, including bacterial vaginosis or other lover genital tract infections until infection is controlled.
 Acute liver disease or liver tumor (being or malignant).
 Conditions associated with increased susceptibility to pelvic infections.
 Hypersensitivity to any component of this product.
 It. Hypersensitivity to any component of the product.
 Kanwn or suspected carcinoma of the breast.
 KARNINGS

Mirena®

12. Known or suspected carcinoma of the breast. WARNINGS 1. Ectopic Pregnancy Evaluate women who become pregnant while using Mirena for ectopic pregnancy. Up to half of pregnancies that occur with Mirena in place are ectopic. The incidence of ectopic pregnancy in clinical trials that excluded women with risk factors for ectopic pregnancy was about 1 ectopic pregnancy per 1000 users per year. Tell women who choose Mirena about the risks of ectopic pregnancy, including the loss of fertility. Teach them to recognize and report to their physicain promptly any symptoms of estopic pregnancy. Women with a previous history of ectopic pregnancy, tubal surgery or pelvic infection carry a higher risk of ectopic pregnancy and use Mirena is unknown. Clinical trials of Mirena excluded women with a history of ectopic pregnancy.

pregnancy. 2. Intrautering Pregnancy If pregnancy should occur with Mirena in place. Mirena should be removed. Removal or manipulation of Mirena may result in pregnancy loss. In the event of an intrauterine pregnancy with Mirena, consider the following: Sectors that our sectors and the sector of the sect

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these data apply to Mirena is unknown. 3. Sepsis As of september 2006, 9 cases of Group A streptococcal sepsis (GAS) out of an estimated 9.9 million Mirena users tab dheen reported. In some cases, severe pain occurred within hours of insertion followed by sepsis within days. Because death from GAS is more likely if treatment is delayed, it is important to be aware of these rare but serious infections. A septic technique during insertion of Mirena is essential. GAS sepsis may also occur postpartum, after surgery, and from wounds. 4. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) Mirena is contraindicated in the presence of known or suspected PID or in women with a history of PID unless there has been a subsequent intrauterine pregnancy. Use of IUDs has been associated with an increased risk of PID. The highest risk of PID occurs storty Her insertion (usally within the first 20 days hereafter) (see PERCUTIONS, Insertion Precautions). A decision to use Mirena must include consideration of the risks of PID a. Women at increased risk for PID PID is often associated with a sexually transmitted disease, and Mirena does not protect against sexually transmitted visease. The risk of PID is greater for women who have multiple sexual partners. Women who have had PID are at increased risk for a recurrence or re-infection. PID warming to Mirena users

recurrence or re-infection. - PID varning to Mirena users All women who choose Mirena must be informed prior to insertion about the possibility of PID and that PID can cause tubal damage leading to ectopic pregnancy or infertility, or infrequently can necessitate hysterectomy, or cause death. Patients must be taught to recognize and report to their physician promptly any symptoms of pekic inflammatory disease. These symptoms include development of menstral dis-orders (prolonged or heavy bleeding), unusual vaginal discharge, abdominal or pekic pain or tendemess, dyspareunia, chills, and fever. Asymptomatic PID PID may be asymptomatic but still result in tubal damage and its sequelae. Treatment of PID

PIO may be asymptomatic but still result in tubal damage and its sequelae.
 Treatment of PID
 Treatment of theray systematic binitiated promptity. Removel of Mirena after initiation of antibiotic therapy is usually appropriate. Guidelines for PID Treatment are available from the Centers for Disease Control (COC), Allanta, Georgia.
 Actinomycosis has been associated with IUDs. Symptomatic women with IUDs should have the IUD removed and abrould receive antibiotics. However, the management of the asymptomatic carrier is controversial because actinomycotes can be found normally in the opinital tract cultures in healthy women without IUDs. False positive findings of actinomycosis on Pap smears can be a problem. When possible, confirm the Pap smear diagnosis with cultures.
 Irregular Bleeting and Ameorrhea Use, the number the biseleng and position days may be increased and bleeding patterns may be irregular. Thereafter the biseling position days may be increased and bleeding heavy bleeding, oligoneorrhea and ameorrhab. During the first three to six months of Mirena use, the number of biseling and apoliting days may user. The possibility of pregnancy should be considered if menstruation does not occur within six weeks of the rows of previous menstruation. Once pregnancy has been excluded, nepatad pregnancy ther sign begin approximately 20% of Mirena users by one arc. The possibility of pregnancy should be considered if menstruation does not occur within six weeks of the rows of previous menstruation. Once pregnancy has been excluded, nepatad pregnancy ther signs of pregnancy

Other signs of pregnancy of or premovane. 6. Embedment Embedment of Mirena in the myometrium may occur. Embedment may decre contraceptive effectiveness and result in pregnancy (see WARNINGS, Ectopic Pregna and Intrauterine Pregnancy). An embedded Mirena should be removed. Embedment can result in difficult removal and, in some cases surgical removal may be necessary.

Call Itself in unital territoria dist, in some cases surgear neuron may be income 7. Perforation Perforation or penetration of the uterine wall or cervix may occur during insertion although the perforation may not be detected unit isome time later. If perforation occurs, pregnano, may result (see WARNINGS, Ectopic Pregnaney and Intrauterine Pregnaney). Milener must be located and removed, surgery may be required. Delayed detection of perforation may result in migration outside the uterine cavity, adhesions, peritonits, intestina perforations, intestinal obstruction, abscesses and erosion of adjacent viscera.