

Welcome to the Fall 2007 edition of the New Hampshire Comprehensive Health Care Information System Newsletter. You will be notified through e-mail each time the newsletter is posted to www.ncdms.org. The October 2007 newsletter focuses on system changes, system growth, disaster recovery enhancements, threshold change review and notes on the September payer meeting.

NH CHIS CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS

Current News

Our national claims database is going to be growing. The National Claims Data Management System has been chosen to provide commercial claims management for Vermont and Massachusetts. This is very exciting news for all us involved in claims data and in particular for our region of the country which remains at the forefront of claims data aggregation and analysis.

The data submission rule for Massachusetts is undergoing some final detailed specifications and will likely include key additional data elements to aid with formation of a patient index. The current Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Council data collection standard can be found at: http://www.mass.gov/lhqcc/docs/regs/129cmr200_uniform_data_adopted.pdf.

Vermont is in the process of final rule making regarding their data collection. Information on proposed data collection rules for Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting System can be found at: http://www.bishca.state.vt.us/RegsBulls/propregs/index_Proposedregs.htm.

We will provide details and state comparisons regarding these and existing rule submissions in our next quarterly newsletter.

We continue the process of developing, testing and implementing a number of new quality measures to allow us to detect problems earlier in data processing. These changes will aid in the creation of a more timely, higher quality data base. We discussed many of these changes in depth in the July 2007 newsletter and provide the reference of changes at the end of this newsletter. The implementation of these new edits and thresholds has been postponed until January 1, 2008. **All of the changes discussed in this newsletter are scheduled to take effect for all data submitted on or after January 1, 2008.**

System Changes:

It may be an oft used axiom that with growth comes change, but for NCDMS the addition of Massachusetts and Vermont will prove that adage to be true. We are busy at work on system changes that will improve performance and throughput for all system users. Many of the changes will be transparent to end users and interruptions of live processing are planned to be non-existent. The following list indicates some of the changes that will be occurring:

- **Upgrade to desktop data encryption software.** New software updates will allow the application to determine state specific submission and apply appropriate encryption methodology. This means for users who are submitting for multiple states the software will now accurately choose the state for you based on the information in the submission file.
- **Increased bandwidth and higher guaranteed uptime for system uploading functionality.** We will be hosting our uploading servers at a new facility that provides better bandwidth performance and a more reliable method of redundancy. System users may still have bandwidth limitations at their facilities that do not allow them to take full advantage of this system change.
- **Multi-node system upload capacity.** Building on technology we have successfully used in other projects we have begun testing on a new multi-node uploading system. This system provides a more robust and reliable approach to availability, testing and deployment of system upgrades and changes.
- **Multi thread data processing.** Deployment of multiple Oracle processing servers will provide us with greater processing capacity, a more robust and stable processing system with enhanced survivorability and more rapid turnaround on file editing.

System Changes- continued

- As mentioned in previous newsletters, work has been ongoing on **migration of the core NCDMS data warehouse to a partitioned and clustered Enterprise Edition of Oracle 10g** attached by redundant fiber-channel switching to a RAID configured scalable storage area network (SAN). This type of technology provides a modular approach to growth with external data storage that is fast and reliable.
- **State specific email accounts and support.** We will begin phase out of the ncdms generic email accounts that have been used to support this project to date. This should cause little disruption but as some accounts become inactive you will be notified of corrected contact information if the account is used.

Enhanced Disaster Recovery Services:

As an active user of NCDMS you may have wondered what we do for disaster planning and recovery on the system. While strong physical security, standby databases, daily backups and off-site storage of tapes have provided us with acceptable security up to now; we have decided to enhance our disaster recovery services as part of our overall system changes. Use of an off-site co-location facility that will house the following is to be implemented in the next few months:

- A cold backup of NCDMS that interacts with the payers and accepts data submissions (the web/app server)
- A cold backup of NCDMS database load/processing servers.
- A warm backup of NCDMS database warehouse.
- Annual testing and validation of the recovery system and services.

NPI and Provider Updates:

Payers continue to submit NPI information and we continue to be evaluating it and working to determine appropriate edits and data element thresholds. We thank you for all the responsiveness in conjunction with these changes.

NPI and Provider Updates - continued

Since July of 2007 14.5% of accepted data files submitted have contained valid NPI values. Individual carrier percentages vary widely from this percentage and there are still a number of carriers that are continuing to work to get an NPI processing and reporting strategy in place.

Work is also being performed to provide integrated group/practice level detail in conjunction with the current provider information as a part of the NH consolidated dataset.

Database Status

The data collection quality and timeliness continues to improve in the second year of operation. As of this writing we have processed in excess of 3,000 submissions from over 30 carrier systems with more than 15,000,000 records. Over 75% of the submissions and 84% of the records were accepted in year 2 compared to less than 40% of the submissions and 50% of the records in year 1.

Consolidated Datasets:

The latest release of the consolidated datasets containing 2005 & 2006 calendar incurred data and 2007 January through June incurred data have been delivered to NH DHHS and NHID. Continued work with existing payers and new payers helps us to validate and/or improve claim rollup methodology and identify potential short comings in the data. This ongoing work results in improved and more comprehensive data for inclusion in future consolidated datasets.

Notes from September Carrier Meeting:

The 2007 Annual Carrier Meeting took place in Concord NH on September 11th with eleven carrier contacts from the five largest carriers submitting data in NH attending along with staff from the NHID, NH DHHS and the MHIC. Highlights from the conference included notification of a data acceptance rate increase from 65% in 2006 to 85% for the first six months of 2007 and a discussion of proposed identification of Inpatient Facility claims and all Facility claims.

Tyler Brannen demonstrated the NHID Provider Cost Comparison Website and discussions followed regarding the potential use and possible misuse of the data presented. Tyler indicated that since the site went live they have received over 50,000 hits. A second demonstration was given by Andrew Chalsma on the NH CHIS Public Standard Reporting Website.

A copy of the conference presentation will be posted on the NCDMS NH State web page and links will be created on the NCDMS NH State web page to both the NHID Provider cost comparison web page and the NH CHIS Standard Reporting web page.

EVENTS AND KEY DATES

09/27/2007 – Updated Public release provider files available via the web.

11/6/2007 – Massachusetts carrier meeting to kick-off Massachusetts data collection project in Waltham, MA.

12/14/2007 – NH research users group meeting in Concord, NH.

KEY EMAIL ADDRESSES

- nhinfo@ncdms.org for general questions
- nhdata@ncdms.org for questions or issues regarding a Data Submission or data file status and encryption software. This includes questions about sending data via the web.

Thank you for your time spent in support of this project and look forward to working with you in the coming months.

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Director of Health Information Systems
Maine Health Information Center

Proposed Load Threshold Changes

Field #	Field Name	File Type	Current Threshold	New Threshold	Change from Default
MC005	LINE	M	70	100	30
MC013	DOB	M	90	100	10
MC023	PTDIS	M	80	90	10
MC028	PRVFNAME	M	50	40	-10
MC029	PRVMNAME	M	20	15	-5
MC030	PRVLNAME	M	90	100	10
MC032	PRVSPEC	M	95	100	5
MC036	BILLTYPE	M	40	20	-20
MC037	FACTYPE	M	70	60	-10
MC038	STATUS	M	90	100	10
MC042	DX2	M	60	50	-10
MC043	DX3	M	40	20	-20
MC044	DX4	M	20	5	-15
MC045	DX5	M	10	0	-10
MC055	CPT	M	60	80	20
MC059	FDATE	M	95	100	5
MC060	LDATE	M	95	100	5
ME007	XPLAN	E	95	100	5
ME014	DOB	E	90	100	10
ME017	PATZIP	E	90	100	10
PC005	LINE	P	70	100	30
PC013	DOB	P	90	100	10
PC018	PHARM	P	90	100	10
PC020	PHARMNM	P	90	100	10
PC025	STATUS	P	90	100	10
PC026	NDC	P	90	100	10
PC027	DRUGNM	P	90	100	10
PC028	NEWPR	P	70	100	30
PC029	GENRX	P	90	100	10
PC030	DAW	P	50	95	45
PC031	COMPOUND	P	90	95	5
PC032	FDATE	P	95	100	5
PC034	DAYS	P	90	95	5
PC047	PHYSNUM	P	60	95	35