

Welcome to the Summer 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.nhchis.org](http://www.nhchis.org). In this edition we have focused articles on updates to the National Provider ID Implementation, changes to the NCDMS Infrastructure, data release updates and public use provider information update.

## NH CHIS CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS

### Current NCDMS Status: 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2007

The NH CHIS Home Page, [www.nhchis.org](http://www.nhchis.org) has undergone substantial changes:

- look and feel updates have been completed
- posting of newly developed Medicaid reports covering enrollment, claim payments, detailed and complex disease cohort studies and their related preventive and service utilization patterns
- release of additional Medicaid and comparative commercial insurance reports and publication on the website of another significant body of reports is planned for July 2007
- implementation of a web forum being used by MHIC, NHID and NH DHHS staff to provide support and open discussion for site users.

We are excited about the changes and encourage you to visit and comment on the content and layout of the website.

Check the new NH CHIS homepage to see what may be happening with the use of your submitted data. You may also subscribe to automatically receive new information on data use by visiting the NH CHIS Home Page at:

<http://www.nhchis.org>. Then click the Join an E-mail List menu link.

### Coming Attractions

The MHIC is in the process of deploying a new storage area network (SAN) to increase capacity for storage and processing.

The migration of accepted files to a new data storage infrastructure should eliminate space contention issues that have been experienced periodically on the file upload and processing servers.

The edits used by NCDMS were developed several years ago. The quality of data submitted by the carriers increases every year. This summer we will be reviewing those edits and making changes to address some of the newer data issues being presented to us.

The MHIC, along with the NH Departments of Insurance & Health and Human Services, will host a summer carrier meeting in Concord again this year. Details are being discussed for the meeting in late July or early August. We will keep you informed about this meeting as more details become available.

### Current Data Status

We want to thank all submitters for their efforts to keep the data accurately flowing on a timely basis and giving us the ability to maintain a less than 1% data rejection rate for March 2007. Compliant data through March 2007 has been submitted for all payers and many have submitted paid data through May 2007.

Accuracy and validity of the commercial data continues to improve. Our quarterly consolidation process and ongoing development and generation of commercial reports have allowed the MHIC to identify issues with data. We thank payers for their responsiveness in working through these issues.

## National Provider Identification (NPI) – Update

Updates to the NCDMS system have been made to accept data submitted in the NPI field. The system will begin validating this information with your June 2007 paid data to help us determine where an industry threshold should be set moving forward. At this time you will not be required to provide an NPI value for 100% of your medical claims. Remember, this is the requirement for the NH files only. Requirements regarding the NPI for Maine submissions are different.

## Confidentiality Concern – Can NH CHIS Public Use Data Be Used to Identify Carriers?

Recent concerns have been raised that data in the NH Public Use dataset could potentially be used to identify a carrier with the provider identifiers found in the provider detail file. Upon further investigation we believe this concern to be unfounded. You have our assurances that the MHIC and the state of New Hampshire have gone to great lengths to protect the identity of the carriers in the NH CHIS Public Use dataset.

We believe this concern stems from a misunderstanding of the differences between the NH Public Use dataset and the Maine All Payer Claims database. Both datasets share common provider data elements.

- There is a master provider table in each.
- This common master provider ID links to numerous provider IDNs across multiple detail level carrier codes in each.

However, there are distinct differences in each data set.

- New Hampshire does not allow carrier information associated with provider detail records to be publicly released; Maine does.
- MHIC maintains a distinct list of detail provider IDNs that is unique for each state. These randomly generated and assigned values will be duplicated in each dataset
- This means a single detail provider IDN will link to one provider in the ME data and the same IDN to a different provider in the NH data.

We have confirmed that an entity using the NH CHIS Public Use datasets could potentially identify a carrier if that entity had additional information that could be used to link with the Public Use data. For example, many hospitals in NH have requested the Public Use data. Using the provider information on claims to identify their hospital, they could then use certain demographic information to tie data back to their own systems where the carrier is identified.

Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of the carrier identity within the NH CHIS Public Use dataset.

## Compliance

**REMEMBER: YOU SHOULD HAVE NO OVERDUE SUBMISSIONS UNLESS YOU HAVE AN APPROVED EXTENSION**

This newsletter marks the end of the second year of submitting NH claims data. In general, the quality and the timeliness of your submissions have improved greatly during that time. During the second half of 2005 we processed a total of 25.9 million NH records in 432 submissions. During the first half of 2007, we processed 26.4 million records in 635 submissions. While the volume is comparable between the two years, the quality is dramatically different. In 2005, 41% of the records were accepted while in 2007, 89% of the records were accepted. Congratulations on a job well done.

We want to again thank you for getting accurate and timely data submitted to the processing center. This has resulted in a slowing of compliance action during the last quarter.

If you have question about the latest status of your file submissions; please visit the following link: [www.nhchis.org](http://www.nhchis.org) and click the data submission link in the left column and then select the data status by carrier report link for updated data submission information. This shows the status of all payer submissions in a single report.

## DATA RELEASE

### Consolidated Datasets:

The fourth release of the consolidated datasets containing 2005 incurred data and 2006 January thru December incurred data will be delivered to NH DHHS and NHID at the end of June, 2007. Weekly conference calls between NH DHHS, NHID and MHIC staff continue to help us understand the data and identify potential issues in it. We want to thank all of the payers for their support in our effort to determine claim rollup methodologies that are used to generate the Incurred datasets. This ongoing work results in improved and more comprehensive data for inclusion in future consolidated datasets.

### Public Use Dataset

The approved NH CHIS Data Release rule has been posted on [www.nhchis.org](http://www.nhchis.org) for your review. To date the 2005 Public Use Dataset has been sent out to over 30 requesters' nationwide. An updated provider information file has been posted on the NH CHIS home page for users to download.

For more information on the Public Use dataset please visit the NH CHIS homepage. There you will find a form to request a copy of the dataset and a data dictionary of information included in the dataset and a list of current requesters of the dataset. There is no fee for acquiring the Public Use dataset.

## EVENTS AND KEY DATES

A carrier meeting to be held in Concord is in the early planning stages. A target date of late July to early August is planned. If you have any topics you would like addressed, please forward them to us.

**06/30/2007** – Updated 2005 Public release dataset due to NH DHHS. Public release provider files available via the web.

**06/30/2007** – May 2007 Paid Claims and Eligibility Due

**06/30/2007** – Final 2005 with 9 months run out and first 12 months 2006 with 3 months run out Incurred Consolidated Datasets due to NH DHHS

**07/31/2007** – June 2007 Paid Claims and Eligibility Due with NPI values listed

### KEY EMAIL ADDRESSES

- [nhinfo@ncdms.org](mailto:nhinfo@ncdms.org) for general questions
- [WebAdmin@ncdms.org](mailto:WebAdmin@ncdms.org) for questions or issues regarding the web site, including the data upload process and encryption software.
- [nhdata@ncdms.org](mailto:nhdata@ncdms.org) for questions or issues regarding a Data Submission or data file status. This includes questions about sending data via the web.

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

Adam J. Thebeau  
Director of Health Information Systems  
Maine Health Information Center