

Welcome to the Winter 2006 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. In this edition we have focused articles on the National Provider ID requirement, Changes to the NH CHIS Home page, Payer Threshold exemptions, Release of Public Use Data Sets, Usage of the Consolidated dataset and the System & Payer year in review.

NH CHIS CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS

Current NCDMS Status: Year in Review

During the past calendar year NCDMS has been running in a production mode with over 30 New Hampshire payers required to submit data. We have made updates to the NCDMS system and have worked with all of you to get the most accurate data possible in a timely fashion.

A comparison of submissions received for January 2006 and then for October 2006 revealed the following:

The total number of files submitted with a **January 06** begin month was 122 with a total number of records submitted of 4,396,472. For the same month the number of files that were accepted with a status of PASS was 66 containing a total of 2,762,004 records. **For January 06 data, approximately 46% of the submitted files and 37% of submitted records were replaced.** Looking at submissions with a beginning month of **October 06**, the total number of current submissions are 61 with a total record count of 2,610,284 and for the submissions that have been accepted with a status of PASS the number of files submitted are 60 with a record count of 2,605,991. **For the payers who have submitted their October 06 data only 1 file was later replaced and the percentage of records replaced was less than 1%.** There are still 5 payers that have not submitted October 06 data and are working to make their submissions compliant. These payers represent 5% of the total volume of monthly expected records. Due to the efforts of the payers, the timeliness and accuracy of the submissions have improved significantly in the course of the year.

During the last quarter there was no reported significant downtime or maintenance shutdown periods.

NH CHIS CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS

What's on Tap?

We continue to work on the payer level threshold analysis report and expect a January 07 publish date. We will keep you informed as this analysis nears completion.

There are no known changes coming to the actual NCDMS application in the coming quarter, but we do want to make you aware of changes that are taking place to the NH CHIS web site over the next few weeks. We have been working with the NH Department of Health and Human Services to design a new 'look and feel' for the NH CHIS Home Page. The implementation of the new web pages will be made over the next couple of weeks.

How will this affect you?

If you go directly from the NCDMS Home Page to the secure file upload page, you will see a "new look" NH CHIS upload page with the same page content as before and with all of the functions still working in the same fashion. However, if you go to the NH CHIS Home Page, you will see the "new look" with some content changes. Although there are still links to the data submission requirement rule, the focus of this page has changed to be more of a data users' page with links to publicly released reports/presentations, forms for requesting released dataset, etc. You will also notice that the link to the page that contains these newsletters has been removed from this home page. Since the content of these newsletters is more directly related to the payers responsible for uploading the data, the link to this page will only be available on the NH CHIS Secure Upload page. However, as these pages mature, the shifting of documents links from one location to another may happen on occasion.

Check the new NH CHIS Home Page to see what may be happening in the public forum related to the use of your submitted data. You may also subscribe to automatically receive new information on data use.

NH CHIS CURRENT DATA STATUS

Current Data Status:

Data is now flowing to us on a regular basis from all but a few payers. Recently, three new payers have been added to those required to submit data and we are working with them to obtain their 2005 & 2006 paid data. We want to thank all of you for your efforts to keep the data accurately flowing on a timely basis and giving us the ability to report a less than 1% data rejection rate for October 06. Currently all but a handful of payers have submitted compliant data to the center paid through October 06 and many have submitted data paid through November 06.

Payer Level Thresholds:

As the 2006 calendar year ends, remember that any payer level load thresholds will expire on 12/31/2006. If you still need a particular threshold to be lower than our default threshold, you **MUST** request your payer level threshold be maintained during the 2007 calendar year or your submissions may begin to fail. Send an email with the 2007 fields you need a payer level threshold maintained on and a short description as to why. Remember, payer level thresholds are not designed to be a permanent fix to a missing data issue. You should be working within your organization to address any missing data reporting problems that we have identified.

Compliance:

During the past year the New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) has taken compliance action on several payers that have had major amounts of data and files overdue. They continue to monitor the status of files and will take action on any payers that have compliance issues in the future. During the past quarter compliance action has drastically slowed. We want to again thank you for getting accurate and timely data submitted to the processing center. To view the latest status of your file submissions compared to the other payers please visit the following link:

www.nhchis.org and click on the data submission link in the left column and then select the data status by carrier report near the middle of the page. This report is updated dynamically every night through our system updating process.

GENERAL DATA RULE NOTES

National Provider Identification (NPI)

This article first appeared in the Fall 2006 newsletter. Due to the importance of this data element, we are repeating this article with a little additional information.

The MHIC has confirmed that providers of all types have been requesting and receiving assignment of their NPI numbers from a national databank. The MHIC has also confirmed that the implementation schedule for the use of this identifier is to be no later than May 23, 2007 for all providers and payers. Please refer to the following link to get the current HIPAA information regarding the NPI:
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/Regs/finalprovid/pro.htm>.

The MHIC has participated in a national seminar centered around the implementation of the NPI and the projected use of the Taxonomy codes for reimbursement. In both discussions, the speakers indicated that the implementation date is still May 23, 2007, Therefore, our requirement date (July 07) for population of this field is unchanged.

We also realize that NPI information dissemination is currently a major concern for all parties involved with the collection and use of this data; however, whether NPIs are useful for payment processing on May 23rd, 2007 or not if the value is submitted to you on either electronic or paper bills it is the requirement of the data collection rule that the value be submitted in the proper field element.

MHIC will work with NH DHHS and NHID staff, to assign an appropriate required load threshold value for the NPI field that will be effective on the June 2007 paid data submitted in July 2007. We highly recommend that if you have not started IT processes to accept and store this information in your Data Warehouse, that you begin the process in the very near future.

DATA RELEASE

Public Use Dataset:

The approved NH CHIS Data Release rule has been posted on www.nhchis.org for your review. The first release of the 2005 Public Use Dataset has been approved and sent out to over 25 requesters' nation wide as of 12/15/2006. For more information on the Public Use dataset please visit the NH CHIS Home Page. 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.

DATA RELEASE

Consolidated Datasets:

The 3rd release of the consolidated datasets now containing 2005 Incurred data with 9 months paid run out and the 2006 January thru September Incurred data are scheduled to be delivered to NH DHHS, NHID by 12/31/2006. A number of analyses have been performed on the data by the two state agencies and there have been weekly conference calls with NH DHHS, NHID and MHIC staff to address data questions and identify problem resolutions.

This forum has been used to identify short comings in the data that resulted in modifications to our Data Quality Review process or to working with specific payers to correct or explain particular data occurrences. We do not make a practice of modifying existing Data Quality edits, however; as new Data Quality edits are identified through the use of the data, we will implement them as necessary.

The refinement of Data Quality edits can cause a file that passed at one time to actually fail after a new edit is put in place. If we can determine that a new edit will affect particular payers, we will attempt reach out to those payers to enable them to resolve the data issue before the new edit is put in place.

Our overall consolidation efforts have gone very well and we would like to thank all you again for the time and resources you spent working with our DBA to better understand your claim line rollup methodologies. Currently there are three remaining payers with whom we are actively working to understand their rollup methodology. If for some reason the methodology that we have worked out for you as a payer does not hold true for future submissions, please contact us to discuss what changes may need to be made. If we find that your data files begin to not conform to a given roll up methodology than we will contact you to determine if changes have been made to your system that would affect this process.

CONSOLIDATED DATASET USAGE

How is the Consolidated Dataset Being Used ? *By Tyler Brannen – NHID*

The New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) was one of the first users of the NHCHIS database and started analyzing the data during the early fall of 2006. Since that time, the NHID has been testing and compiling the data in order to report on health care costs in New Hampshire. The primary output from these analyses will be a revised version of a NHID website, called HealthCost. The purpose of the HealthCost website is to provide patients with useful information about the price of health care services so that they can make more informed decisions about where to seek care and what it will cost them. HealthCost, expected to be released in February of 2007, will allow patients to input basic information about their health insurance coverage (or whether they are uninsured) and obtain comparative cost information between providers.

Unlike most prior efforts around price transparency, the HealthCost website will provide cost information based on total "bundled" costs during a visit, that include both the physician and provider organization (e.g. the hospital or ambulatory surgery center). The costs will be a calculated rate using historical patient experience, and will be based on the amounts paid by the insurance company and patient, not the provider's charges. Examples of procedures that will be included are: arthroscopic knee surgery, hernia repair, colonoscopy, tonsillectomy with adenoidectomy, emergency room visits, vaginal birth and new baby, mammogram, MRI, and CT scans.

The primary audience for HealthCost is the individual patient, who is seeking cost information on specific services. Analyses that focus on aggregate costs by community or provider organization are planned for in the near future when the NHID directs efforts at providing useful information to employers. Also expected by the NHID during 2007 are analyses that will provide greater insight on health care costs in New Hampshire that are driven by utilization, service mix, health status, reimbursement rates, health insurance coverage, insurance status, disease incidence and prevalence, and other information that can be extracted or inferred from the claims database.

EVENTS

2006 Annual Payer Conference

In October the MHIC, NH DHHS and NHID hosted the 2006 Annual Payer Conference in Concord NH. The four largest payers in the NH data collection effort were in attendance and a presentation was given by the MHIC. All parties at the meeting participated in a questions and answer session after the presentation and we are currently pulling together the presentation, Q&As and the payer level threshold analysis report into one document that will be made available to all of you in January.

KEY EMAIL ADDRESSES

- nhinfo@ncdms.org for general questions
- WebAdmin@ncdms.org for questions or issues regarding the web site, including the data upload process and encryption software.
- 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

KEY DATES:

ALL OVERDUE FILES ARE DUE NOW UNLESS YOU HAVE AN APPROVED EXTENSION

12/15/2006 - 2005 Public release dataset available by approved request.

12/31/2006 – November Paid Claims and Eligibility Due

12/31/2006 – 2005 with 9 months run out and first 9 months 2006 Consolidated Datasets due to NH DHHS

01/31/2007 – December Paid Claims and Eligibility Due

PAYER FIELD LEVEL EXEMPTIONS EXPIRE ON 12/31/2006 – You MUST re-apply for field level exemptions for 2007 data or your submissions may fail.