

Welcome to the Spring 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 requirement, changes to the NH CHIS homepage, release of public use data sets, public use provider information and system & payer updates.

## NH CHIS CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS

### Current NCDMS Status: 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2007

NCDMS has recently undergone extensive work to help our provider identification and linkage process. Improvements in automation should reduce processing and turn around times on payer file edits. System preparation and testing is well underway for handling the NPI as a submission requirement.

### What's on Tap?

Last quarter's newsletter indicated that the NH CHIS web site was going through a number of "look & feel" change. If you have been visiting the NH CHIS Home Page on a regular basis you have most likely noticed that the changes are still ongoing. We are excited about the changes and encourage you to visit [www.nhchis.org](http://www.nhchis.org) and comment on the content and layout of the website.

### How will this affect you?

The focus of NHCHIS website has changed; going forward it will be a vehicle to disseminate the large body of work that Maine Health Information Center has been developing for the NH Department of Health and Human Services. Standard reports, special studies, publicly released reports/presentations, and forms for requesting releasable datasets will be posted along with data collection and submission rules and applications.

Upcoming changes to this homepage will also include integration of a moderated public forum. The forum will be used to post questions that data users may have. As this application matures we encourage your feedback.

## NH CHIS CURRENT SYSTEM STATUS

### How will this affect you? - continued

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/index.html>. Then click the Join an E-mail List link.

## NH CHIS CURRENT DATA STATUS

### Current Data Status:

We have been working with new payers to resolve data issues and have addressed a number of issues related to payer level thresholds. **Remember, if you have unique payer level thresholds that need to continue into 2007 you MUST request this in writing. Submissions that passed in 2006 will fail in 2007 without this required written notification.**

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 report a less than 1% data rejection rate for December 2006. Compliant data through December 2006 has been submitted for all but a handful of payers and many have submitted paid data through January and February 2007.

### National Provider Identification (NPI) - Updates

Mark your calendars; May 23, 2007 continues to be the target date for implementation of the NPI for all providers and payers. Providers of all types have been requesting and receiving assignment of their NPI numbers from a national databank.

## NPI Updates - continued

The National NPI registry data has yet to be released from the National Plan/Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). In light of this fact the MHIC has recently received information that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has been requested to approve a NPI testing period. It does appear that a 6 month testing period for providers and payers may be put into place.

This new information relative to an implementation and testing period has been reviewed by NH DHHS and they have approved the following approach. The NH CHIS requirements for submission of the NPI values will fall in line with the national approach. The NCDMS system will report file thresholds for NPI starting with your June 2007 paid data submission. However, we will not fail files that do not meet minimum threshold requirements.

Instead we will analyze the various thresholds of data over the testing months that CMS designates. At the end of the designated period an appropriate threshold will be established and communicated to all payers for ongoing submissions.

Please note that pharmacies are also required to obtain NPI numbers. Therefore the NPI field (PC021) in the Pharmacy claim layout **MUST** be filled appropriately.

For all payers the NPI field value **MUST** be able to link back to the NPI disseminated data from NPPES or be left as a null value if the data is not available.

### Compliance:

#### **REMEMBER: ALL OVERDUE FILES ARE NOW DUE UNLESS YOU HAVE AN APPROVED EXTENSION**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> release of the consolidated datasets containing 2005 incurred data and 2006 January thru September incurred data have been delivered to NH DHHS and NHID. Weekly conference calls with NH DHHS, NHID and MHIC staff and 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.

### Public Use Dataset:

The approved NH CHIS Data Release rule has been posted on [www.nhchis.org](http://www.nhchis.org) for your review. The 2005 Public Use Dataset has been sent out to over 30 requesters' nationwide as of 2/28/2007. We are also working to post monthly updated provider information on the NH CHIS Home Page where requestors of the data can go to download the latest linked provider information.

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 requestors of the dataset.

## EVENTS AND KEY DATES

### NH CHIS Users Group Meeting in Concord

On Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2007 members of our Research staff will be presenting a study authorized by NH DHHS related to ED use. The study uses both Medicaid data and your submitted Commercial data. For more information about this Data Users Group please contact us using the [nhinfo@ncdms.org](mailto:nhinfo@ncdms.org) email address.

**03/30/2007** – Updated 2005 Public release dataset due to NH DHHS. Public release provider files available via the web.

**03/31/2007** – February 2007 Paid Claims and Eligibility Due

**04/30/2007** – Final 2005 with 9 months run out and first 12 months 2006 Incurred Consolidated Datasets due to NH DHHS

**04/30/2007** – March 2007 Paid Claims and Eligibility Due

## 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  
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Maine Health Information Center