



State of New Jersey  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 No. 72

November 2003

**TO:** Pharmaceutical Providers, Submitters of Drug Claims, and Vendors of Pharmacy Software – **For Action**  
Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**

**SUBJECT:** New Remittance Advice Statements – Pharmaceutical Providers

**EFFECTIVE:** Pharmacy claims with payment dates on or after October 22, 2003

**PURPOSE:** To notify all pharmaceutical providers, recipients of electronic RAs for pharmacies, and vendors of pharmacy software of changes in the way adjudicated claims information will be disseminated to providers due to the new Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards.

**BACKGROUND:** Providers were previously notified of the HIPAA standards for processing electronic health care claims. If you or your software vendor need further information concerning the new claim format standards, please reference our two Companion Guides on the Unisys website at [www.njmmis.com](http://www.njmmis.com). Electronic pharmacy claim submission and electronic remittance advice (835) information is found in the [NCPDP Companion Guide](#).

Complementing the previously announced changes to claim formats, HIPAA also requires the State to adopt a new electronic RA format for the RA statement known as the "4010A1 Version of the 835 Remittance Advice."

The focus of this Newsletter is the timing of changes to the current electronic Unisys Remittance Advice (RA) format that must be modified due to HIPAA.

***In this Newsletter, the current RA format shall be referred to as the "Unisys RA" format. The new RA format shall be referred to as the "HIPAA 835 RA" format.***

**ACTION:** Effective for claims with payment dates on or after October 22, 2003, the electronic RA format will be available in either the current Unisys RA format or the new HIPAA 835 RA format. Pharmacy submitters (which are the entities that actually receive the electronic RAs) are being contacted by Unisys to determine if they are ready to receive the new HIPAA 835 RA format or wish to continue to receive the current format. For those who indicate they are ready, the next RA will be in the new format. Those submitters that are not ready at this time should call Unisys – EDI Unit (609-588-6051) when they are ready to accept the new format.

**On or about January 1, 2004, Unisys will discontinue the current electronic Unisys RA format. Adjudicated claim information will only be reported using the new HIPAA 835 RA format. At that time, all electronic RAs will be created in the**

**new format, even if the submitter has not notified Unisys that it is ready to accept this new format.**

Any pharmaceutical provider wanting to:

- Receive an electronic RA in the new HIPAA 835 format and is currently receiving only a paper RA,
- Change billing agent or claim submitter, or
- Change the medium of its electronic RA (Internet, Bulletin Board via Modem, CD-ROM, or Cartridge)

should complete the appropriate sections of the Electronic Data Interchange Agreement in Section 2.7 of the HIPAA Companion Guide located at **www.njmmis.com**. For help in completing the form or to receive a paper copy of the form, please call the Unisys – EDI Unit at the above telephone number.

All providers receiving the paper Unisys RA statement will continue to receive a paper RA statement. For information about accessing the paper Unisys RA statement on-line, please see the Medicaid Newsletter Volume 12, No. 21, dated April 1, 2003.

**Claim Error Codes**

Unisys error codes will be reported only on paper Unisys RA statements. **Only HIPAA-approved error codes will be reported on the new electronic HIPAA RA statement.** Please reference Appendix F of the NCPDP Data Dictionary (available from NCPDP) for a list of the codes and their descriptions.

**Reminders**

Pharmacies are reminded that Unisys will continue to accept the NCPDP 3C Fixed claim format for claims with service dates prior to January 1, 2004. For dates of service on or after January 1, 2004, the NCPDP Version 5.1 and 1.1 (batch) claim formats shall be the only electronic claim formats accepted by Unisys for payment consideration.

**Please share this information with the recipient of your electronic remittance advice and your software vendor.**

If you have any technical questions concerning the HIPAA 835 RA statement, please contact Michael Chiofolo at (609) 588-2759.

If you have any questions concerning the new electronic HIPAA pharmacy claim format, please contact Lorraine Harris at (609) 588-2450.

If you have any policy questions regarding Medicaid-covered health care services and HIPAA standards, please contact the Office of Utilization Management at (609) 588-2721.

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