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Newsletter

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TO: All Providers - For Action
Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) – For Action

SUBJECT: Excluded, Unlicensed or Uncertified Individuals or Entities

PURPOSE: To remind providers and HMOs of their responsibility to determine if an individual or entity that they employ or contract with is excluded, unlicensed or uncertified.

BACKGROUND: Providers and HMOs are responsible for ensuring that any payments received from the State of New Jersey are not for items or services **that are directly or indirectly furnished, ordered, directed, managed or prescribed in whole or in part** by an excluded, unlicensed or uncertified individual or entity. Excluded individuals or entities are those identified by the State or federal government as not being allowed to participate in State or federally-funded health benefit programs, such as Medicaid, NJ FamilyCare, or Pharmaceutical Assistant to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD).

ACTION: Providers and HMOs are responsible for verifying that any **current or prospective employees (regular or temporary), contractors or subcontractors who directly or indirectly will be furnishing, ordering, directing, managing or prescribing items or services in whole or in part** are not excluded, unlicensed or uncertified by searching the following databases **on a monthly basis**:

1. Federal exclusions database (mandatory):
<http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/exclusions.asp>
2. N.J. Treasurer's exclusions database (mandatory):
www.state.nj.us/treasury/debarred/
3. N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs licensure databases (mandatory):
<https://newjersey.mylicense.com/verification/>
<http://12.150.185.184/dca/>
4. N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services licensure database (mandatory):
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/healthfacilities/search.shtml>
5. Certified nurse aide and personal care assistant registry (mandatory, if applicable):
<http://njna.psiexams.com/search.jsp>

6. Federal exclusions and licensure database (optional and fee-based):
<http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/pds.html>. Please note that only certain provider types may access this database. See <http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/entity.html> for more information.

We strongly recommend that background checks utilizing these databases be included in a provider's or HMO's written policies and procedures for preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse. The State reserves the right either to deny, void or to seek recovery for any services that are directly or indirectly furnished, ordered, directed, managed or prescribed in whole or in part by an excluded, unlicensed or uncertified individual or entity. Further, interest and civil penalties may be assessed in any such recovery. Finally, providers and HMOs discovering any excluded, unlicensed or uncertified individual or entity employed by, or contracting with the provider or HMO must send written notification to the Office of the State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division, P.O. Box 025, Trenton, NJ 08625-0025.

Additionally, if any provider or person discovers fraud and/or abuse occurring in any State or federally-funded health benefit program, they should report it to the Office of State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division hotline at 1-888-937-2835 or web site at <http://nj.gov/comptroller/divisions/medicaid> .

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please call Michael McCoy, Manager, Office of the State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division, General Recovery, Auditing and Data Mining Units, at 609-826-4808.

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