



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 No. 59

October 1999

TO: Providers of Pharmaceutical Services

SUBJECT: Year 2000 (Y2K) Testing

EFFECTIVE: Test claims with service dates between January 1, 2000 and March 1, 2000

PURPOSE: To notify providers of pharmaceutical services of the intentions of the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) to establish a testing environment for pharmacy claims to provide pharmacies the opportunity to determine if their billing system is capable of processing pharmacy claims with service dates on or after January 1, 2000. **This testing is not intended to certify that a pharmacy practice management system is Y2K compliant.**

BACKGROUND: DMAHS has been requested by providers of pharmaceutical services, both independent community pharmacies and chain pharmacies, to provide testing opportunities to determine whether enhancements completed on their pharmacy practice management systems will allow such systems to process pharmacy claims with service dates on or after January 1, 2000. The New Jersey Medicaid Management Information System (NJMMIS) is prepared to process such claims into the millennium.

Although Unisys, the State's fiscal agent, is prepared to process point-of-sale (POS) pharmacy transactions with service dates on or after January 1, 2000, testing opportunities are being provided for pharmacies to confirm the successful transfer of claim data with future service dates through to adjudication.

ACTION: Effective for pharmacy claims with service dates between January 1, 2000 and March 1, 2000, pharmacies choosing to test their practice management systems are welcome to submit pharmacy claims under the following conditions:

- The test periods shall be limited to **Friday, October 22, 1999, between 10:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. and Friday, November 5, 1999, between 10:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M.** These time periods were selected to minimize any disruptions in POS services.

- **On Friday, October 22, 1999 and Friday, November 5, 1999, between 9:30 P.M. and 10:00 P.M., no pharmacy claims will be accepted by the State's POS system.** During these time periods, the POS system will be set-up to accept pharmacy claims with Y2K service dates.
- **On Friday, October 22, 1999 and Friday, November 5, 1999, between 10:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M.,** the pharmacies may submit claims with service dates between January 1, 2000 and March 1, 2000. March 1, 2000 will be considered the current date assigned by the NJMMIS. March 1, 2000 is the date claims will be considered received from a pharmacy by the POS system.
- Pharmacies are welcome to submit any State pharmacy benefit claims of their choosing, even those claims previously adjudicated/paid by the POS system. Service dates on these claims can be changed to reflect future services provided between January 1, 2000 and March 1, 2000. Pharmacies can also submit claims with service dates between March 2, 1999 and March 1, 2000 without timely filing concerns which would abort successful processing of a test claim.

Pharmacies will not receive payment for any test claims submitted through the POS system during these test periods. Unisys will discard all test claims after the test periods are concluded.

- During testing, pharmacies will receive routine POS responses, except that each response will include Error Code "000" to identify processed POS transactions as test claims.
- All pharmacies will receive a hard copy report, sent to the same address as that currently used for Medicaid Newsletters, detailing test claims, which were processed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Pharmacies are encouraged to consult with their software vendors before submitting any test claims. The use of a pharmacy practice management system for purposes not designed can cause uncorrectable system errors and the possible loss of data.

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Consultant, DMAHS, at (609) 588-2724.

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