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Newsletter

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YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE

Our top priority is to make the transition to the Year 2000 as uneventful as possible for our providers, beneficiaries, and other business partners.

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) has taken the Year 2000 (Y2K) challenge seriously. It began actively preparing for Y2K in 1996. Since then, teams of employees from our Division, the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, other State agencies, Unisys (our fiscal agent), and other partners have been working to make sure that our systems are ready for the Year 2000.

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| Key Achievements | During 1999, DMAHS passed several key Y2K milestones with significant success. To date, rigorous testing has demonstrated that our computer systems and infrastructure are ready to operate beyond the Year 2000. Independent review agencies have confirmed our assessment. |
| Business Continuity & Contingency Plans | In the normal course of business, DMAHS has contingency plans in place so that we can continue with our normal activities in the event of an unforeseen development. We have developed extensive business continuity and contingency plans specific to Y2K as part of our strategy to minimize inconvenience to our providers and beneficiaries. |
| Are You Y2K Compliant? | <p>Our Y2K readiness will not help you if your systems, equipment, communications, etc. are not ready for the new millennium. You need to be Y2K compliant. We strongly recommend that non-pharmacy providers contact their software vendors or claim submitters to determine whether they have participated in the Y2K claim submission testing currently being offered by Unisys. Providers of pharmaceutical services are encouraged to participate in testing the submission of their claims to the Unisys Point-of-Service system as described in the October 1999 Newsletter, Volume 9 No. 59.</p> <p>A full discussion of Y2K electronic media claim submissions to and remittance advice receipts from Unisys may be found in the March 1999 Volume 9 No. 17 (all claim formats except UB-92) and May 1999 Volume 9 No. 29 (UB-92) Newsletters.</p> <p>We urge you to develop a Y2K contingency plan of your own in case unexpected problems develop with your systems or those of your business partners. As a reminder to providers of pharmaceutical services, Newsletters issued in August 1997 (Volume 7 No. 52) and November 1997 (Volume 7 No. 62) detail contingency plans during Point-of-Service interruptions.</p> |
| Revised NJMMIS Year-End Schedule | In order to reduce further the risk of a Y2K problem with the first payment in the new millennium, we are shortening the last production cycle in 1999. As a result, the payment dated January 5, 2000 will only include electronic claims submitted on or before Tuesday, December 28, 1999 or paper claims processed by Wednesday, December 29, 1999. However, the check dated January 12, 2000 will include payments that were not processed the previous week. To minimize the effect on your cash flow, you should consider filing your claims a few days earlier than you normally do. We will provide you with more information on this change in our next Newsletter. |

Further information: Another Y2K Newsletter will be issued later in the year that will update you on these activities and provide additional information that you should find helpful. In the meantime, if you have any questions on our Y2K activities, please contact our Y2K Coordinator at 609-588-2802. Also you can access our Medicaid Y2K web site at www.state.nj.us/cio/y2k/medicaid/index.html.

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