



Medicaid Alert

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MA-97-3

YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE

December 1997

TO: All Providers
SUBJECT: Modification of Claim Data for the Year 2000
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

ON DECEMBER 2, 1998 THIS YEAR 2000
STATEMENT IS HEREBY DESIGNATED A
YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE

BACKGROUND: Currently, both hard copy claim forms and electronic claim records submitted for payment generally allow for only a two-position year (e.g., "97") and not for the full four position year (e.g., "1997"). Unless modified, this situation will present a problem for dates later than December 31, 1999. Unisys is in the process of modifying the New Jersey Medicaid Claims Processing System to use Year 2000 compliant dates. In order to provide for an uninterrupted payment of claims, it is critical that the change to year 2000 compliance be carefully coordinated with related actions by providers.

ACTION: Claim forms and electronic records sent to Unisys for payment must conform to specific national standards which the responsible organizations will change to prepare for the year 2000. Therefore, providers and software vendors will not know how to modify their output formats until the relevant standard in each instance has been changed to reflect dates later than December 31, 1999. In addition, Unisys will not be able to accept the updated format until its claims processing system has been modified to accommodate the new formats.

Although the State is **not** advising anyone to delay preparation of their internal systems for the year 2000, it is crucial that **you do not modify the format of any claims submitted for payment through Unisys** until you have received specific instructions from the State regarding the method, procedure, and timing for doing so. You will be advised on how to proceed after the State has received final specifications for Year 2000 compliance from the relevant national electronic record standards boards and has a firm schedule from Unisys for conforming their interface to these standards.

If you have any questions regarding this Medicaid Alert, please contact the Office of Information Systems, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, at (609) 588-2802.

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(GREEN TAB MARKED "4")