



INDIANA MEDICAID UPDATE

December 31, 1998

TO: All Indiana Medicaid Providers

SUBJECT: Year 2000 (Y2K) Readiness

This bulletin will provide you with up-to-date information about where Indiana Medical Assistance Programs are in the quest to be *Year 2000 Compliant*. Subjects covered in this newsletter are:

- The Challenge of the Next Millennium
- What We Have Already Done
- Action Items
- What This Means to You, the Provider

Updates made to our systems to make them *Year 2000 Compliant* do not require you, the provider, to do anything. The changes are internal. This bulletin is provided to keep you informed of our progress.

The Challenge of the Next Millennium

By now you have probably heard or read about the challenges associated with the Year 2000. In order for a computer system to be *Year 2000 Compliant*, it must be able to properly determine the century of a date. In the past systems stored the year as a two-digit number (111598 for November 15, 1998). Storing the year as a two-digit number saved space on the system. Now that we are approaching a change in the century date, those systems using the two-digit year will no longer know to which century the two-digit year belongs. Systems will no longer be able to tell if 111598 is November 15, 1998 or November 15, 2098. Newer programs and some existing programs have been revised to store the year in a format whereby the century can be recognized.

EDS will continue to work to minimize the impact that the upcoming new century has upon the IndianaAIM System.

What We Have Already Done

- **Verified HCFA's Requirements for Compliance.** EDS has worked with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to fully understand their requirements for *Year 2000 Compliance* and the Medicaid Program.
- **Verified Compliance with Outside Sources.** EDS has identified the external interfaces to the IndianaAIM System. These are the entities with whom we exchange information in some automated format (data trading partners) and the vendors whose software products we use.
- **Found and Updated Programs for Compliance.** EDS is the Medicaid fiscal agent for the State of Indiana and is primarily responsible for claim adjudication and payment, among other functions. EDS conducted an extensive review of the IndianaAIM System to verify *Year 2000 Compliance*. The reviewers compiled a list and developed an action plan to correct, test, and implement the changes needed to bring the IndianaAIM System into *Year 2000 Compliance*. The system carries all dates with a four-digit year with the exception of three internal keys, which are being addressed by EDS and are transparent to the provider community.
- **Electronic Claims Submission's Compliance.** EDS verified that the formats of the current electronic claims submission process are compliant by the parameters defined by HCFA. EDS will continue to receive dates in a two-digit format. Dates received in this format will be expanded for use within IndianaAIM. Providers using third-party software to submit claims should consult with their vendors to ensure both software and hardware are *Year 2000 Compliant*.
- **NECS – EDS' Electronic Claims Submission Software.** EDS is evaluating an alternative or replacement to NECS. The product will continue to be functional throughout 1999. Further information about NECS will be forthcoming in the next few months.
- **POS – Point of Sale.** Pharmacy point-of-sale systems are compliant and will not need modification for Year 2000.

Action Items

- We are finalizing the review of State and Federal systems in order to verify that they are *Year 2000 Compliant* for our exchange of data.
- We are finalizing plans for executing an IndianaAIM system-wide Year 2000 test as the last step of verifying readiness.
- We are developing a contingency plan for handling unexpected interruptions in key business functions in the event situations arise.
- We are increasing the communication regarding the planning, testing, and implementing of Year 2000 updates with our data trading partners, HCFA, and the provider community.
- We are evaluating an alternative or replacement for NECS software.
- We will continue testing into 1999 and revalidate the IndianaAIM system and interfaces through structured testing.

What This Means to You, the Provider

- Be assured that significant effort is being applied to bring all systems into *Year 2000 Compliance*.
- Regarding submission of claims electronically, no changes are necessary in order for the IndianaAIM System to continue to process your claims. The present formats for electronic claims are already *Year 2000 Compliant*.
- Updates made to our systems to make them *Year 2000 Compliant* do not require you, the provider, to do anything. The changes are internal.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this bulletin, please contact EDS Provider Assistance at 1-800-577-1278, or locally at 317-655-3240.

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