



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

Center for Medicaid and State Operations
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

JUNE 8, 2000

Dear State Medicaid Director:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on the status of your State's implementation of the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) electronic reporting system and the implications of delayed implementation.

The Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 requires that, effective for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1999, MSIS replaces the annual hard-copy HCFA-2082 report as the primary source of Medicaid program statistical information. MSIS requires quarterly tape submittals of Medicaid data extracted from State eligibility and claims history files. There are five separate MSIS files which must be submitted quarterly. These files are eligible, inpatient hospital, long-term care, drug, and other files. Each of these quarterly files must pass data quality reviews that include edit checks and distributional analysis of the data.

On April 10, 2000, we sent you a letter explaining HCFA's expectations for State's implementation of MSIS for FFY 1999. In that letter HCFA extended the deadline for submission of the four quarters of FFY 1999 MSIS data until July 31, 2000 and attached a chart showing the FFY 1999 MSIS status for each State.

Since the July 31, 2000 date is fast approaching, this seems like a good time to share with you an updated status report for each State. Therefore, the enclosed updated chart shows the latest FFY 1999 MSIS State implementation progress. Please review your State's progress. If your first quarter FFY 1999 MSIS tapes for both eligibles and claims have not passed both the HCFA edits and the data quality distributional analysis reviews, then we ask that you take immediate action to resolve all edit and data quality problems and have your first quarter FFY 1999 MSIS tapes resubmitted **no later than June 30, 2000**. If all your first quarter FFY 1999 MSIS tapes have passed both the HCFA edits and data quality distributional reviews, then we need you to submit your MSIS tapes for the remaining quarters of FFY 1999 as soon as possible **but no later than July 31, 2000**.

Please be advised that failure to submit MSIS data violates the BBA-mandated Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) functional requirements, and places your MMIS enhanced Federal matching in serious jeopardy of being reduced to 50-percent Federal financial participation.

As you work towards meeting the June 30, 2000, and July 31, 2000 deadlines for submitting your FFY 1999 MSIS data, let me stress the availability of HCFA MSIS staff, and our MSIS contractors (Mathematica Policy Research (MPR)) in helping you resolve issues, questions, problems, etc. associated with your FFY 1999 MSIS data. Let me encourage your staff to seek help, as necessary.

We do not want State staffs to spend their valuable time making interpretations of the requirements that can often be resolved with a quick phone call. Our experience indicates that States which have been successful in implementing MSIS for FFY 1999 are those States which have taken advantage of an ongoing dialogue with HCFA and MPR staff. MSIS technical help is just a phone call or e-mail away. MSIS help is available by calling the **MSIS hotline on (410) 786-1600**, or by e-mail at the following address: **MSIS@hcfa.gov**. Also, you may call or e-mail **Betty Kern, MSIS data coordinator, on (410) 786-0141, or Bkern@hcfa.gov, or Ron North, MSIS technical director, on (410) 786-5651 or Rnorth@hcfa.gov**. Let me also encourage you access the MSIS page on the internet which can be found at the HCFA website address, <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/m2082.htm> under Medicaid Statistical Information System. This site contains the latest version of the MSIS specifications and important information concerning file sizing, naming, and internal/external labeling requirements which must be adhered to in order for the tapes to process successfully.

For those States which have successfully implemented MSIS for FFY 1999, please accept our congratulations, thanks and appreciation for the efforts of your staff in this endeavor. Please keep up the good work as you continue to provide timely MSIS data for FFY 2000.

As for the other States which are still working on implementing MSIS for FFY 1999, we are committed to working with your staff as partners in this effort, and we expect to successfully implement MSIS in most States by the July 31, 2000 deadline. We appreciate your continuing efforts, and look forward to working with your staff to successfully implement MSIS for FFY 1999, and beyond.

Questions concerning this letter should be referred to Betty Kern of my staff on (410) 786-0141, or e-mailed to Bkern@hcfa.gov.

Sincerely,

/S/

Timothy M. Westmoreland
Director

Enclosure

cc:
All HCFA Regional Administrators

All HCFA Associate Regional Administrators
For Medicaid and State Operations

Lee Partridge
Director, Health Policy Unit
American Public Human Services Association

Joy Wilson
Director, Health Committee
National Conference of State Legislatures

Matt Salo
Director of Health Legislation
National Governors=Association

State	Eligibility Files				Claims Files													
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4										
	Fiscal Year 1999																	
Alabama																		
Alaska																		
Arizona																		
Arkansas																		
California																		
Colorado																		
Connecticut																		
Delaware																		
Dist. of Col.																		
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Idaho																		
Illinois																		
Iowa																		
Indiana																		
Kansas																		
Kentucky																		

Note: HCFA's policy is not to process any subsequent quarters' tapes until the designated test quarter has been received, passed HCFA's Validation Edit program, AND passed the HCFA contractor's Data Quality review.

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