



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Financial Management Services
Commissioner's Office
221 State Street
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Brenda M. Harvey
Commissioner

Kirsten LC Figueroa
Deputy Commissioner

March 23, 2007

RE: Interim Payment Recapture

Dear Provider,

The State is continuing the process of reconciling the interim payments that have been distributed since early 2005. Interim payments were distributed in lieu of claim payments that could not be processed due to MECMS implementation issues. Given the continuing stabilization of MECMS and the ongoing claims payment success for the majority of providers, the State believes it is reasonable to expect that interim payments will be recovered.

As such, the Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) has been working collaboratively with providers to identify any interim payment balances that represent overpayments. For those providers that continue to carry interim payment balances, OMS will now hold payments of pre-2006 claims in an effort to help providers eliminate their interim payment balances. This action enables the State to avoid overpayments of pre-2006 claims.

This means that as claims with dates of services prior to January 1, 2006 are processed for payment in MECMS, the amount due will be used to cover the provider's interim payment balance. These claims will be held until the interim payment balance is reached and then released for recapture. In the event that the pre-2006 held claims exceeds the interim payment balance, the remainder will be paid to the provider.

A listing of these held claims will be viewable via a new feature in the claims portal. Instructions for accessing the portal and identifying held claims will be available on the OMS website at:
http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms/member/innerthird/mecms_portal_news.html.

This process to recapture pre-2006 claims payments will begin on Sunday, April 8, 2007. A question and answer sheet will be posted to the website above. Should you need a copy of this document faxed or mailed to you or if you have additional questions, please call the OMS billing and information unit at 1-800-321-5557, Option 8. **If you have already paid your interim balance in full, this hold process will not apply to you.**

The claims hold effective date will change from pre-1/1/2006 to pre-10/1/2006; we anticipate this change to occur by May 2007.

In general, it is the State's intention to inform providers 30 days prior to implementing this type of process. However, the need to implement this process in a timely manner coupled with the desire to ensure that the process is operating properly requires a shorter notice period. We apologize if there are any issues related to the timing of this notification and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for your continued service to MaineCare members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kirsten LC Figueroa'.

Kirsten LC Figueroa
Deputy Commissioner of Finance

Our vision is Maine people living safe, healthy and productive lives.