



John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

MaineCare MIHMS Bulletin

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MIHMS enrollment, tell me more!

Early in 2010, the new MaineCare claims processing system known as the Maine Integrated Health Management Solution (MIHMS) will be fully implemented and will begin processing your claims. MaineCare is working with its Fiscal Agent, Unisys, to develop this system. Until that time, the current MeCMS system will continue processing claims.

In order to prepare for the transition to this fiscal agent model of operations, all providers must re-enroll in the new system in 2009. Clearinghouses and billing services will not “enroll” in MIHMS as they have in MeCMS, but will “register” as Trading Partners (please see the Trading Partner Agreement information below). The MIHMS team has planned an enrollment process that takes into account provider type, size, complexity, and number of servicing (also known as rendering) providers. The plan is to enroll providers in three cycles in the summer of 2009. Providers will be notified approximately one month in advance of their scheduled re-enrollment dates. The notice will include information about how providers can enroll

electronically by visiting the web portal that is currently under design. Paper applications will be available; however, providers wishing to re-enroll on paper will be encouraged to visit the re-enrollment web site first to experience the ease of electronic re-enrollment.

As you begin completing the application for re-enrollment on the portal, you will receive a confirmation e-mail that includes your unique application case number. This will allow you to return to your application at any time if you cannot complete it in one sitting. Applications can be saved as many times as necessary and submitted when complete. You will receive a confirmation e-mail verifying receipt of your application. The completeness and complexity of your application will determine the amount of time needed to process and approve it. You will be notified of your application approval in writing and by e-mail. At that time, you will be required to enter into a Trading Partner Agreement (TPA) if you want to do electronic business with Unisys. This notice will include information regarding the Trading Partner process.

What is a Trading Partner Agreement (TPA)?

The TPA is a binding agreement between Unisys and organizations wishing to do electronic business with MIHMS. This includes providers, billing services, and clearinghouses. The TPA is a legal document, which stipulates the terms and conditions that trading partners agree to before exchanging electronic documents. These include standard 837 claims transactions, standard 835 electronic remittance advices, direct data entry (DDE) of claims and standard 270/271 electronic eligibility validations on the portal, to name a few.

TPAs for clearinghouses and billing services will be available as soon as the re-enrollment portal is available. These entities will be able to visit the portal, read the TPA, and sign it electronically. At a later date, as MIHMS prepares to receive 837 file uploads, Trading Partners will be required to successfully submit three test files for each type of claim they will be submitting; that is, dental, institutional, or professional claims. As mentioned above, providers will not enter into TPAs or submit test file uploads until after re-enrollment applications are approved. TPAs are required for those providers that want to conduct any type of electronic business with Unisys.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) – How do I Prepare?

Enrollment in MIHMS is based on National Provider Identifiers (NPIs). Provider types and specialties will be driven by how you have enumerated for NPI. The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) which registers NPIs allows for two types: “Individual” and “Organizational.” NPPES requires independent, private practitioners to obtain an individual NPI for themselves and an organizational NPI for their private practice when they are operating under a Federal Employer Identification Number. The first question asked as you enroll in MIHMS will be “How have you enumerated your NPI with CMS: Individual, Both, Organization, or No NPI (for atypical providers)?” The answer to this question will determine how providers enroll in MIHMS. For example, if you answer “Both;” that is, you have an NPI for yourself and an NPI for your private practice, you will be considered a “Group Practice” in MIHMS. An exception to this rule is for any independent Early Intervention Practitioner (e.g., Developmental Therapist); MIHMS will only require one NPI from this provider type, regardless of whether both an individual and an organizational NPI were obtained.

An NPI recommendation that may not be obvious involves “Waiver providers” that provide no other services but MR Waiver Services. MaineCare considers these providers to be organizations. As a result, these providers should choose “Organizational” when applying for their NPI.

All dental hygienists will need to obtain an NPI in order to enroll in MIHMS. In addition, “servicing only” providers will be enrolled by the organization that employs them and will need to obtain an NPI. These include Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Licensed Master Social Workers, Dietitians, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapy Assistants, Physician Assistants, and Speech Therapy Assistants.

For a demonstration on how to complete the NPI application form, please visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid’s (CMS) NPI “viewlet” at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/npi/npiviewlet.asp>.

What about Training?

Training sessions are being planned throughout the state during the summer of 2009 to coincide with the enrollment cycles mentioned previously. Separate sessions will be provided for “Individual Enrollment,” “Group Enrollment,” and “Facility, Agency, or Organization (FAO) Enrollment.” Providers who have enumerated both an individual NPI and a private practice NPI should attend a “Group Enrollment” training session, not the “Individual Enrollment” session. Any provider enrolling more than one provider type, for example group and FAO, should plan to attend sessions for each. Training schedules will be available shortly and will be posted at http://www.maine.gov/bms/providerfiles/provider_training.htm.

Clearinghouses and Billing Services

Please remember clearinghouses and billing services will not “enroll” in MIHMS. They will need to register as a Trading Partner with MIHMS. Those currently enrolled in MeCMS will be receiving a notice to register in the near future. Providers using a billing service should ensure their enrollment in MeCMS by calling 1-800-321-5557, option 8, or notify their billing service of this requirement.

Other resources

- Fiscal Agent Updates: http://www.maine.gov/bms/member/innerthird/fiscal_agent.html.
- Invitations to our new monthly MIHMS Provider Forums:
Please send your name, contact e-mail, and provider name to MaineCare2010.DHHS@maine.gov
- MaineCare’s Listserv: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms/member/innerthird/listserv.shtml>

If you have other questions or suggestions, please send them to MaineCare2010.DHHS@maine.gov

More to Come!

Watch for more details in future editions of the
MaineCare MIHMS Bulletin

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