

Maine Health Data Processing Center

Annual Report 2006

The primary focus of the Maine Health Data Processing Center (DP Center) has been in the appropriate, efficient processing of eligibility and claims data with minimal system down time. During calendar year 2006 the Maine Health Data Processing Center (DP Center) fulfilled its primary function by processing 3557 submissions containing 56,509,564 records from 121 carriers throughout the nation. Carriers submitted eligibility, medical claims, dental claims and pharmacy claims according to the formats and time frames defined under the data collection rule Chapter 243.

The success of the DP Center in 2006 was tied closely to the continued cooperation shown by the data submitters. During the year, the web portal used by carriers to access the system was significantly modified to allow them improved access to the data quality and compliance frequency reports used by the DP Center to evaluate each submission. A transparent process and the availability of technical DP Center staff to work with the carriers contributes to the improvement in the quality of submissions. In 2006 the acceptance rate of records submitted hit an all time high of 81% of all records filed. Since January 2003, the Maine Health Data Processing Center has processed over 300 million records submitted by more than 150 payers. Over that four year period, more than 50% of all submitted records passed the validation criteria established by the Data Processing Center. The learning curve for payers submitting data continues to improve each year. With the quality of the data submitted improving each year the total volume of records processed has decreased as payers began to successfully submit quality data on the first try. In 2003, 28% of all records submitted were accepted. In 2004, the acceptance rate was 68% and in 2005 76% of the records submitted were accepted. In 2006 81% of the 56 million records submitted passed the validation criteria. The graph below shows the trend in acceptance rates by each of the four data types: dental, eligibility, medical and pharmacy. The overall percentage would have been much higher if not for a required resubmission of a very large amount of medical claims data for the 2nd quarter of 2006 from one payer.

**Maine Health Data Processing Center
% of Submitted Reords Passing Validation Steps
2003 - 2006**



In 2006 data from the Maine Health Care Claims Data Bank continued to be publicly released to researchers by the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) on a quarterly schedule. The DP Center transferred almost 115 million records to MHDO throughout calendar year 2005. These transfers provided MHDO with claims and eligibility data for the period January 2003 through June 2005. From July 2005 through June 2006 an additional 43 million records were transferred to the MHDO. The transfers of claims and eligibility data continue on a quarterly basis while constantly improving provider information is transferred to the MHDO each month.

In 2006 the Data Processing Center continued to educate researchers at all levels by hosting a Data Processing Center User's Group. The group was formed to share experiences in using this very large dataset and participants at the monthly meeting include, but are not limited to, the MHDO, Maine Quality Forum (MQF), Health Dialog, Maine Health Information Center, Databay Resources, State Bureau of Health, state PHOs and other Healthcare Provider Organizations.

Continued improvement in the provider information was the key linkage goal for 2006. Also in this year a goal was to support the MHDO's efforts in recruiting individual physicians who would accept data extracts identified as their own services rendered and determine if the correct provider and member demographic information is being associated to these claims. This project is to support the effort to release the individual physician names in the provider

files in a future 2007 MHDO dataset. During 2006 the DPC has participated in calls with National HIPPA experts and Healthcare Professionals Nation wide to get a better idea of the implementation schedule and uses of the National Provider Identification Number. The DPC learned that the current implementation date of the NPI is still targeted for Mid-May 2007. The DPC has indicated to payers that it will expect a certain percentage of NPI values be submitted in their files with the June Paid data submission. Until such time that the NPI is available at a meaningful level in the payers submissions, the DP Center must identify all provider codes assigned to a single provider and create a unique identification number. MHIC has developed application software and business rules to create a master provider index similar to the software and business rules used in the creation of a master patient index in an electronic medical record system. A unique medical provider record consists of the combination of the federal tax identification code, the provider code assigned by the carrier, the provider name and the provider's zip code. At the close of 2006, there were over 855,000 unique medical provider records in the system that were indexed to 242,183 unique provider codes. These numbers show a growing improvement over the number of unique provider records from last years' report of 271,253 unique provider records out of a total of 640,000 records. The number of total provider records will continue to increase over time as new payers submit data, existing payers change key provider values in their systems or providers themselves move around in the Healthcare system. But as the total number of records increase, the number of unique provider entities will also decrease over time as continually improving provider linkage work is performed. The number of providers is high because it includes both in-state and out-of-state providers.

DP Center staff provided assistance to the MHDO in identifying individual providers who are taking part in the physician claim association process. The DP Center staff also worked with MHDO staff to develop software to automatically generate data for MHDO's compliance tracking system on a daily basis.

Maine Health Data Processing Center

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