

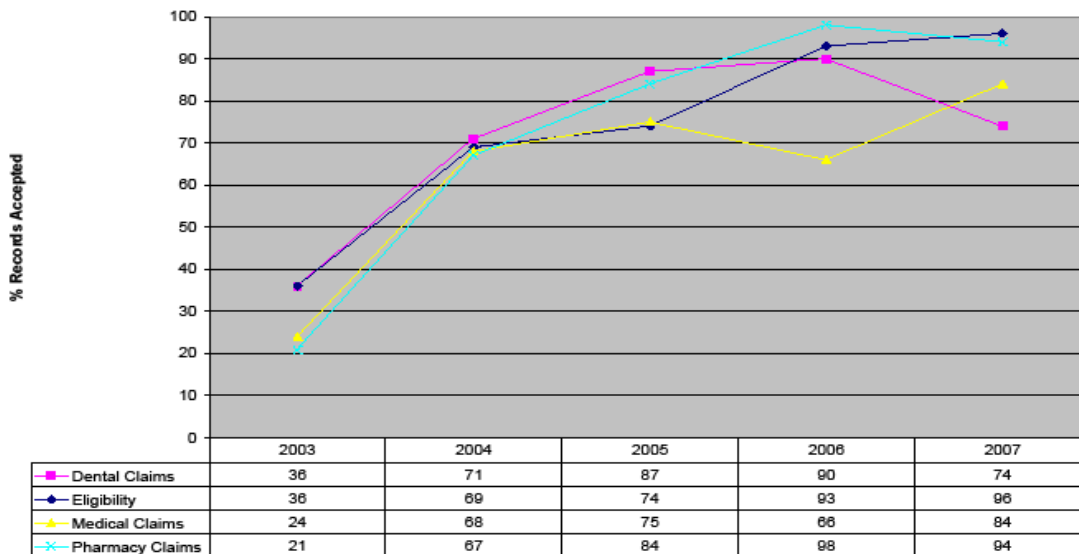
Maine Health Data Processing Center

Annual Report 2007

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 2007 the Maine Health Data Processing Center (DP Center) fulfilled its primary function by processing 3632 submissions containing 93,968,695 records from 129 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 2007 was tied closely to the continued cooperation shown by the data submitters. At the end of 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. With this web portal change the DP Center also made substantial changes to the infrastructure of the system and underlying hardware to accommodate the increase in data submissions from both Maine and NH payers along with preparing the system to accept data submission for the States of Massachusetts and Vermont. 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 2007 the acceptance rate of records submitted hit a new all time high of 87% of all records filed which included the full data submission of the 2003 and 2004 Paid Medicare claims and eligibility. Since January 2003, the Maine Health Data Processing Center has processed over 440 million records submitted by more than 175 payers. Over that five year period, more than 64% 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 and in 2007 the acceptance rate climbed to 87% of the 93 million records submitted. The graph below shows the trend in acceptance rates by each of the four data types: dental, eligibility, medical and pharmacy.

**Maine Health Data Processing Center
% of Submitted Records Passing Validation Steps
2003 - 2007**



In 2007 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 more than 88 million records to MHDO throughout calendar year 2007. These transfers provided MHDO with claims and eligibility data for the period January 2003 through September 2007. The transfers of claims and eligibility data continue on a quarterly basis while constantly improving provider information is transferred to the MHDO each month. Also included in the 88 million plus records was the two year time period of January 2003 thru December 2004 Medical and Eligibility records for the Medicare members with residence in Maine. This data was loaded, processed, accepted by the DPC and extracted back out to the MHDO within an 8 week window while maintaining all other DPC processing for Maine, NH and Massachusetts.

In 2007 the Data Processing Center continued to educate researchers at all levels by continued hosting of the 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 2007. The DPC implemented a threshold on the NPI field in the June paid data received in July 2007. The initial acceptance level of this field was set at a minimum level and the DPC has seen a

stead growth in the percentage of records containing a valid NPI value. 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 2007, there were over 1,077,907 unique medical provider records in the system that were indexed to 313,037 unique provider codes. These numbers show a level trend over the number of unique provider records from last years' report of 242,183 unique provider records out of a total of 855,000 records, with the large increase in numbers being the result of adding the Maine Medicare providers into the mix. 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 worked directly with the MHDO staff in day to day data compliance and acceptance review processes. The DPC reviewed the overall thresholds for all fields and Data Quality Edits and made recommendations to the MHDO on potential changes that will strengthen the overall quality of the data delivered to the MHDO. Also, in support of the provider linkage processes and the receipt of the Medicare data into the DPC system the DPC has added 1 full time provider linkage staff who will work exclusively on the Maine Provider linkage process.

[Maine Health Data Processing Center](#)

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