To:

Billing Services and Providers

HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Wisconsin Medicaid Will Stop Accepting Claims in Pre-HIPAA Electronic Formats Before the End of 2004

It is *imperative* that providers continue their efforts toward becoming Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) compliant because Wisconsin Medicaid will *stop accepting* claims in pre-HIPAA electronic formats before the end of 2004. Wisconsin Medicaid will notify providers in advance of making this change.

HIPAA Compliance Is Mandatory

The federal government mandated a compliance date of October 16, 2003, for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Transactions and Code Sets regulation. In accordance with this compliance date, Wisconsin Medicaid began accepting HIPAA-compliant claims on October 13, 2003. Recognizing, however, that some providers were not ready to submit HIPAA-compliant electronic claims by the federal deadline, Wisconsin Medicaid also implemented a contingency plan, which allowed providers the option of continuing to submit claims in the following pre-HIPAA electronic formats:

- The HCFA 1500 (80 Byte) Record Layout. (This format is used by a wide range of providers, including dentists.)
- The UB-92 (80 Byte) Record Layout.
- The UB-92 (192 Byte) Record Layout.

Wisconsin Medicaid will *stop accepting* claims submitted in these pre-HIPAA electronic formats before the end of 2004.

Wisconsin Medicaid provided the option of submitting claims in pre-HIPAA electronic formats as a *temporary* means of assuring continued reimbursement to providers. Providers were still expected to work toward becoming HIPAA compliant.

Providers should contact their billing services, internal information technology areas, or claims clearinghouses to determine the status of HIPAA compliance.

Providers will be notified in advance of the date on which Wisconsin Medicaid will stop accepting claims in pre-HIPAA electronic formats.

For More Information

For more information on submitting HIPAA-compliant electronic claims, providers may visit the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) page of the Wisconsin Medicaid Web site at *dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/.* Some of the resources available include:

- Wisconsin Medicaid HIPAA companion documents, which complement national HIPAA Implementation Guidelines.

- Information on trading partner enrollment and testing.
- A link for ordering the free HIPAA-compliant Provider Electronic Solutions (PES) claims submission software and downloading the PES User Manual.

Questions about HIPAA compliance for electronic claims may be directed to the Wisconsin EDI Helpdesk via telephone at (608) 221-9036 or via e-mail at *wiedi@dhfs.state.wi.us*.

Information Regarding Medicaid HMOs

This *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* contains Medicaid fee-for-service information and applies to providers of services to recipients who have fee-for-service Medicaid. Since HIPAA impacts all health care payers, it is important to know that HIPAA changes also impact Medicaid HMOs. For questions related to Medicaid HMOs or managed care HIPAA-related changes, contact the appropriate managed care organization.