



October 24, 2007

Dear Data Contacts:

Recently, WHA Information Center staff downloaded the CMS NPI database for review and incorporation into the Wlpop-UB04 submission system. After initial analysis of the file, there are a number of issues that will delay the submission of the **Physician NPI** to the Wlpop-UB04 system. However, this does not impact the submission of **Provider NPI** information to the Wlpop-UB04 system.

The CMS database downloaded has no data standardization, thereby requiring a 'scrub' and clean-up of the data to ensure consistency for comparison purposes to the legacy number(s) and current physician information that WHAIC has on file. Additionally, the database includes the entire nation, and is not segmented in any fashion (i.e., by region, state, etc.). Due to the large size of the database, Microsoft Access cannot handle loading the data, and WHAIC will have to utilize a SQL server database to allow the file to be loaded. CMS originally determined that dissemination of the information would be a one-time 'first' download, then 'update' files on a monthly basis. CMS has changed the structure of the dissemination, and now will be providing monthly data 'dumps' of the entire NPI database. All of the above factors necessitate an automated process to download, scrub, re-format, import, compare and update or import data to the WHAIC validation database.

To this effect, WHAIC anticipates that **Physician NPI** numbers may be submitted *no earlier* than **Q1 2008** submission data (all data types). There is a *possibility* that Physician NPI information may be allowed as of Q4 2007, however, the earliest we can commit to at this point is with the Q1 2008 submission data.

As with many other allowed/required transitions, WHAIC will continue to require physician license information in the form of either Wisconsin license or UPIN (Q3 & Q4 2007 submission data) until **Q1 2008**. Once the NPI can be submitted, all three types of license will be accepted, until such published date that the Physician NPI is required for all records, for all data fields representing physician license number. We anticipate that the Physician NPI data will be allowed and transitioned over a two quarter time frame in order to allow facilities to adequately implement and test the data fields before the requirement of Physician NPI data takes effect.

WHAIC is in process of finalizing a database of **Provider NPI** numbers that will allow facilities to submit **Provider NPI** numbers effective with **Q3 2007** data submissions.

Please contact us with any questions.

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