

	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN</b> COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	<b>SUBJECT</b>  Millennium Compliance	<b>BY</b>   Christine M. Bowser Acting Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
<b>NUMBER:</b>	99-99-05	
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	July 27, 1999	
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	July 27, 1999	

**PURPOSE:**

To address providers' concerns regarding the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Medical Assistance Programs' Year 2000 (Y2K) readiness.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

As the Y2K approaches, the Department is being inundated with requests for assurance that we have taken the necessary steps to ensure continued function of our operations. Because of the volume of requests that we have been receiving on this topic, we are not in a position to respond to individual questionnaires, surveys or certification requests. Therefore, we are attempting to address Y2K compliancy concerns with this bulletin.

**DISCUSSION:**

Pennsylvania State agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction are actively working to resolve the Y2K computer date problem. In August 1996, a Y2K action plan for all state agencies was announced by Governor Tom Ridge. At that time, agencies were directed by the Governor to make the Y2K challenge a top priority demanding their full attention.

As of December 1998, 100 percent of all mission and non-mission critical computer programs, impacting vital public services, have been corrected, tested and put back into service. This schedule provided an entire year to further test the Y2K readiness of state agencies' computer systems.

We are also evaluating agencies' computer hardware and the reliability of "embedded technologies" - computer chips commonly used in a variety of devices from building environmental systems to fax machines. Any such equipment that is not Y2K compliant is being repaired or replaced under the Governor's action plan. This initiative will continue through December 1999.

Pennsylvania State Government has been recognized repeatedly nationwide for the continuing progress being made through our comprehensive approach to the Y2K challenge. Realistically, with a project of this scope and complexity, we fully expect that some Y2K disruption may still occur. We anticipate, however, that our careful attention to the Y2K issue should minimize any associated problems. Also, the aggressive deadlines established in the Governor's action plan should allow the necessary time and resources to address such problems quickly.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (OMAP) AGGRESSIVELY WORKED TOWARD DEVELOPING Y2K COMPLIANT CLAIM FORMS, AND IMPLEMENTING A Y2K COMPLIANT CLAIMS PROCESSING SYSTEM. THIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1998. OMAP IS CONTINUOUSLY TESTING ITS CLAIM PROCESSING SYSTEM AND DEVELOPING CONTINGENCY PLANS IN THE EVENT OF A Y2K DISRUPTION. OMAP IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING DELIVERY OF SERVICE TO RECIPIENTS AND PAYMENT TO ITS PROVIDERS WITHOUT INTERRUPTIONS.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll-free inquiry line for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).