

Denti-Cal Bulletin



VOLUME 19, NUMBER 24 P.O. BOX 15609 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95852-0609 AUGUST 2003

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) TRANSACTIONS AND CODE SETS: DENTI-CAL ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) PROVIDERS

Denti-Cal is making every effort to comply with HIPAA regulations, however, some of the HIPAA transactions and the code sets project will not meet the October 16, 2003 implementation deadline. ***Providers must continue to follow existing billing instructions until otherwise notified through future bulletin updates.*** This information is supplemental to the HIPAA updates provided in your March bulletin. It is very important to review your monthly bulletins for more detailed instructions and implementation schedules related to HIPAA compliance.

As with paper claims, until further notice Denti-Cal will only be accepting local codes. Denti-Cal is aware that this may cause difficulties for the compliance of EDI billing providers and/or their vendors or clearinghouses. Denti-Cal has advised them of this requirement.

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) submitted a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) dated April 15, 2003. In this letter, WEDI made the following requests for consideration:

- “Permitting compliant covered entities to utilize HIPAA TCS [Transaction Code Sets] standard transactions that may not contain all required data content elements, if these transactions can otherwise be processed to completion by the receiving entity, until such time as compliance is achieved or penalties are assessed.”
- “Permitting compliant covered entities to establish a brief transition period to continue utilizing their current electronic transactions in lieu of reversion to paper transactions.”

For further information or to read the letter in its entirety, please refer to WEDI’s website referenced below.

Denti-Cal anticipates changes for both electronic and paper billing submission requirements during the period of HIPAA implementation. These changes, as well as DHHS’ response to WEDI’s request, will continue to be communicated through regular provider bulletins.

For additional information regarding HIPAA, please refer to the following websites:

- www.medi-cal.ca.gov - Medi-Cal website
- www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/hipaa/ - Department of Health Services Office of HIPAA Compliance
- aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp/ - Department of Health and Human Services
- http://www.wedi.org/cmsUploads/pdfUpload/commentLetters/pub/Letter_to_Sec_Thompson_pdf.pdf - Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange

Direct emails to: DentiCal_HIPAA@delta.org. All emails will be responded to as quickly as possible.