**Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO)**

**Outpatient 2012 Release Notes**

**August 15, 2014**

**Opening Statement**

In an effort toward our goal of continuous quality improvement the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) is working with the Maine CDC for an external review of our hospital outpatient encounter data. The CDC has reviewed the data that is included in this release.  The issues that the CDC has identified in the sample fall into two categories:

1. Immediate issues that we have addressed in this release
2. Longer term issues that we either need to work with specific data submitters on addressing or we need to consider a validation and or rule change in order to address the systemic issue.

Note that some of the issues that we have addressed in this release are based on our current structure.  As we work towards building our master indices (provider, individual and payer) we are confident that greater improvements will be realized.

Lastly, we continue to work on improving our documentation.  We are providing the users with several documents as part of this release:

1. MHDO’s Release Notes (this document)
2. Release file layout document, including several code set definitions
3. Spreadsheet indicating record counts and missing data

**Encrypted Medical Record (MRN)**

1 –Due to some facilities reporting data from multiple HIS systems, there is some apparent duplication where the same value shows up for more than one individual under a given facility ID. In order to prevent confusion, it is recommended that the encrypted MRN be evaluated in conjunction with the patient’s date of birth and gender.

2 – Due to an issue with their HIS vendor, two submitters (200094/SMMC Primecare and 200096/Franklin ECW Home Health) reported claim numbers in place of medical record numbers. The result is that the Encrypted MRN for these two facilities is unique for each encounter, meaning that claims cannot be grouped by Encrypted MRN for these two facilities. The vendor is working on correcting this issue for future reporting.

**Missing Data**

A number of facilities are missing data for individual months. Please refer to the spreadsheet 20140805\_RecordCountsOutpatient2012.xlsx, which provides a count of records per facility per month, and also lists the facilities with missing data. In the event that any of the missing data is provided to the MHDO in the future, it will be released as a patch to the current release.

**Changes to Release File Layout**

1 – Consistent with the restricted claims data set, effective with the 2012 Outpatient data release, patient city and state of residence will be included in restricted releases.

2 – The fields ECR3, SP3 and Taxonomy3 have been removed from the layout. There are no values to report in these fields, and they have always been blank in previous releases.

3 – Revenue codes are all four characters, where in the past they have been three or four. This follows national standards. All previously released three character codes can be mapped to the four character version by padding with a leading zero. For example, revenue code 450 would now be reported as 0450.

4 – The release files are pipe-delimited text file, and contain field names in the header row.

**Miscellaneous**

1 – There were a small number of records reported with service dates outside of 2012.

2 – There are a number of new clinic submitters – refer to the FAC sheet of the layout spreadsheet.