

STATE OF MARYLAND

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**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**

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March 26, 2012

Dear Payer Representatives:

I'm writing to request your participation in the first Medical Care Data Base (MCDB) monthly webinar meeting of Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) staff, MCDB payer representatives, Mr. Adrien Ndikumwami of Social and Scientific Systems, Inc. (SSS), our data base contractor, and staff from the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA). These monthly meetings will serve as a vehicle for MHCC staff to: (a) obtain information from payers regarding proposed changes to the submission calendar or data requirements, and (b) address any problems with payers' submissions that emerged after staff began using the data for analyses. We also want payers to share with MHCC and SSS their suggestions for how the Commission might improve the submission process, especially with an eye to reducing the need for delayed submissions or resubmissions, or problems they have had providing information for particular data fields. We hope that payers might also assist each other by sharing any techniques they have employed to reduce errors in their submissions, or the e-mail exchanges with SSS to communicate why their submission for the current year differs significantly from that of the previous year. Lastly, we want to promote an information exchange between payers and the MIA so that payers will understand how the MIA intends to use the data and, the MIA will learn about the submission process and the nature of the data submitted by the payers.

The agenda for the first meeting is attached. Larry Monroe, our MCDB payer compliance manager, will inform you of the date and time for the first webinar meeting via an e-mail in the near future. I believe it is important that all payers participate as we launch the 2011 MCDB data collection, and begin to plan for the 2012 collection and beyond.

If you have any additional items you would like to include or any questions, please contact Larry Monroe, at (410) 764-3390 or [lmonroe@mhcc.state.md.us](mailto:lmonroe@mhcc.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ben Steffen'.

Ben Steffen  
Acting Executive Director

Attachment

## **Medical Care Data Base (MCDB) Monthly Payers' Meeting – Agenda for First Meeting**

- **MHCC's new data commitments:**
  - Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) evaluation
  - Data to MIA for market oversight and other uses
  - Data to Carriers for understanding the Maryland market
- **Speeding up the time to get Analysis Ready Files:**
  - Using other submission formats: SAS; Other formats suggested by payers
  - Having payers screen for key results in their data: make comparisons to their prior year's submission values, and provide information on significant deviations prior to submission in an effort to reduce back and forth communications and re-submissions
- **Issues for the 2011, 2012 MCDB Data Submissions**
  - Institutional Services File: How can we count Emergency Room (ER) visits using your data?
    - Problems identifying ER visits in the Institutional Services File: We are using information in the Professional Services File, supplemented by identifying admissions in the Institutional Services File.
    - Due to the revision of UB-04 coding for Point of Origin for Admission, effective July 1, 2010, there will no longer be information on Admitted from Emergency Room: How are payers dealing with this?
    - How are payers counting ER visits?
  - Need for an Internal Product Number in the Medical Eligibility File to track ACA-related analyses on Patient Liability under different Product Types beginning 2014 (would like to test the variable in prior years)