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Bulletin Number 4331	Date February 26, 1999	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health Processing Office (address below)
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, and Laboratories		

Subject **CHANGE IN DEADLINE FOR THE CONVERSION TO THE YEAR 2000
COMPLIANT CLAIM SUBMISSION TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Further to the February 12, 1999 Remittance Advice message and Ministry of Health Divisional Communication 'Data Link' dated March 31, 1998, please be advised that the deadline date for the acceptance by the Ministry of old format claims submissions has been changed from March 18, 1999 to July 18, 1999.

As of July 19, 1999, claims submitted to the Ministry in an electronic format, such as diskettes, magnetic tapes or via electronic data transfer, must be submitted using the new Year 2000 compliant version of the claims submission, technical specifications. Claims submitted in the previous format, will not be payable until submitted in the new format.

Providers that have not yet converted to the new claim submission, technical specifications for Year 2000 compliance are advised to contact their Medical Software Vendors for assistance.

Providers are also reminded that the Department of Finance of Revenue Canada has made amendments to the Income Tax Regulations to help small and medium sized businesses address the Year 2000 computer compliance problem. These amendments will allow accelerated capital cost allowance deductions of up to \$50,000 for computer hardware and software acquired between January 1, 1998, and June 30, 1999, to replace similar property acquired before 1998 that is not Year 2000 compliant. Health care providers should contact Revenue Canada for details.

LOCATION CODES

Further to Data Links 98-003 and 98-004, the deadline for submission of location code has been changed to July 19, 1999. This affects physicians registered with the ministry after

December 15, 1996.

The location code is a new field on the claim representing the geographic location in which the insured service was rendered.

Office locations

Barrie 30 Poyntz St. L4M 3P2	Hamilton 119 King St. W P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A L8N 4C8	Kenora 220-808 Robertson St. P9N 1X9	Kingston 1055 Princess St. P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	Kitchener Canada Life Square Main Floor 235 King St. E., N2G 4N5
London 217 York St., 5th FloorP. O. Box 5700 Terminal A N6A 1B7	Mississauga 201 City Centre Dr. P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A L5A 3M1	North Bay 101-447 McKeown St. P1B 9S9	Oshawa Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419 King St. W. P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9
Owen Sound 981 2nd Avenue E. N4K 2H5	Peterborough 550 Lansdowne St. W. K9J 8J8	St. Catharines 59 Church St 3rd Floor L2R 3C3	Sarnia 452 Christina St. N. N7T 5W4	Sault Ste. Marie Roberta Bondar Place 70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100 P6A 6V4
Sudbury 199 Larch St., Suite 801 P3E 5R1	Thunder Bay 435 James St. S. , Suite 113 P7E 6T1	Timmins 38 Pine St. N., Ste. 110 P4N 6K6	Toronto 2195 Yonge St. P.O Box 1700 Stn. A M5W 1G9	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1
		Head Office P.O. Box 38 Kingston, ON K7L 5J2		

Claims submitted July 19, 1999 or later by physicians registered with the ministry since December 15, 1996 must include a location code. This includes claims submitted under a solo and/or group number.

If the location code is missing or invalid, claims will reject V51 – Invalid Location Code.

Physicians who are registering now for a billing number are being advised at the time of registration of the location code for each of their practice addresses. Other physicians will be provided notice of the corresponding location code for each of their practice addresses within the next month.

ELECTRONIC DATA TRANSFER (EDT) SERVICE

The Ministry of Health officially launched the new Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) service in the summer of 1998. All registered Ontario health care providers were sent an EDT information kit and invitation to register for the EDT service.

What is the EDT Service?

The EDT service is a vehicle for the electronic transmission of files from the health care providers PC to the ministry's mainframe computer. EDT currently has two applications - Fee for Service Medical Claims and Overnight Batch Eligibility Checking (OBEC). Other applications will be added in the future.

What are the Benefits of the EDT Service?

Benefits include convenience, security, fast claim submission, fast error correction and earlier monthly reconciliation.

Ministry Assistance

Now that the EDT service is fully available to Ontario's health care providers the ministry is encouraging providers to register. The ministry will be publishing an EDT Guidebook in late March to assist health care providers in the preparation and registration for EDT. Information sessions including an overview and demonstration of the EDT service are being planned for around the province.

To receive an EDT Registration package call the EDT Technical Help Desk toll free at 1 800 262-6524 or in Kingston call 548-7981.

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Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
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