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For Immediate Release

State of New Mexico Pledges Smooth Transition into HIPAA Claims Compliance

Santa Fe, October 15, 2003 – The New Mexico departments of Human Services (HSD), Health (DOH), and Children Youth and Families (CYFD) and the Office of the State Chief Information Officer (CIO) have created a plan to ensure continued payments to health care providers during the implementation of the National Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 transaction and code sets. The three departments and the CIO have created a HIPAA transition period to ensure all health care claims submitted, HIPAA compliant or not, will be paid after the HIPAA deadline of October 16. “The goal of the state is to avoid any disruptions in payments to providers and health care operations as we transition to HIPAA compliance,” said Thomas Romero, HSD Deputy Secretary.

The transition period begins October 16 and will last through mid-December in an effort to allow the state and providers to go through testing and ensure a smooth transition into full HIPAA compliance. “The transition period will also ensure continued processing of claims forms from hundreds of providers who will not be able to meet the deadline and would otherwise have their claims rejected,” said Moira Gerety, state CIO. New Mexico is coordinating its efforts with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This has been a cross-departmental effort to meet the October 16 deadline, which currently puts New Mexico in line with most states. “The cooperation between departments is allowing the state to keep the business of health care running during the transition into full HIPAA compliance and will serve us well into the future,” said Patricia Montoya, DOH Secretary.

HIPAA compliance is proceeding nationally in three phases. The first was the Privacy Standard Deadline of April 14, 2003. The second phase is the transition of Transaction and Code Sets on October 16, 2003. The Security Phase deadline is set for April 21, 2005. The claims transaction deadline is an effort, by the federal government to have all health care providers submit standard electronic claims. “While we’ve met several milestones and have more to go, the inter-agency coordination is proving to be extremely beneficial to the state and its taxpayers,” said Peter Ambs, CYFD CIO.

Please see attached State of New Mexico HIPAA timeline.