

WGIUPD

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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**DIVISION:** Office of Health Insurance Programs

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**GIS 09 MA/009**

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Judith Arnold, Director  
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

**SUBJECT:** New York State Benefit Identification Card Changes

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2009

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Support  
Upstate (518)474-8887 NYC (212)417-4500

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to alert local social services districts to upcoming changes to the New York State Benefit Identification Card (CBIC). These changes are being implemented to reduce fraudulent use of recipient identification cards across Temporary Assistance, Food Stamp, and Medicaid program areas.

Currently, recipients, local districts and providers can determine the most recently issued CBIC, and therefore the card used to access services, by the SEQUENCE NUMBER (SEQ). Presently, the SEQ is predictable because it increases by one digit each time a replacement card is issued. Effective May 2009, the SEQ will be randomly assigned.

In preparation for the randomization of SEQ and in recognition of the need to identify the most recently issued CBIC when multiple cards are presented by the recipient, a DATE and TIME stamp will be included on all new and replacement cards issued beginning April 2009. The DATE and TIME will indicate when the card was issued and will appear across the top of the CBIC.

A mass mailing of new cards to current recipients is not planned. The changes described in this GIS will be made at the time a replacement card is issued for existing cases or with new cards generated at initial opening.

Please direct any questions to the Local District Liaison Unit at 518-474-8887 Upstate and 212-417-4500 for NYC.