

NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

George E. Pataki  
Governor

Brian J. Wing  
Commissioner

September 30, 1998

Dear CNS/WMS Coordinator:

The purpose of this letter is to provide districts with an explanation of the WMS/CNS enhancements migrated to the Training System on September 28, 1998, and scheduled to become operational on the Production System on October 19, 1998. These changes are a result of Year 2000 (Y2K) testing, State Welfare Reform reporting requirements and changes in Federal Food Stamp regulations.


For questions regarding the attached changes, please contact the following individuals at 1-800-343-8859:

Wayne Marquit @ extension 4-3231  
Bob Decker @ extension 3-6206  
Mike Zostant @ extension 4-7239  
Saul Berkowitz @ extension 3-5631  
Tully Lenihan @ extension 4-8749

Section 1 (PA/FS)  
Section 1 (MA)  
Section 2  
Section 3  
Section 4

Sincerely,

Wendy Dmitri  
Division of Temporary Assistance/WMS

  
Patricia Martone, Director  
Bureau of Technical Systems Audit  
Office of Medicaid Management

cc: Commissioner  
IM Director  
MA Director  
FS Director

## Attachment I

1. Y2K testing has been completed, and WMS will accommodate all Year 2000 dates.
2. As a result of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act (AREERA) of 1998, edits for NPA Food Stamp cases will permit newly eligible aliens to be coded correctly. On screen 3, Error #397 has been inactivated, which means that the Citizenship field entries are no longer dependent on the value of the FAP Indicator. Therefore, Citizenship Code entries for newly eligible aliens will be allowed in FAP cases (FAP Indicator = X).

Two (2) other citizenship related edits have been inactivated. They are:

Error #472: This NPA/FS edit required the FS Authorization FROM Date to be greater than or equal to the alien Date of Entry (screen 4) PLUS 5 years if any Citizenship value = "S" (lawful permanent resident with 40 qualifying quarters) and the corresponding Date of Entry is greater than or equal to September, 1996.

Error #473: This NPA/FS edit required the FS Authorization FROM Date to be less than or equal to the earliest alien Date of Entry (screen 4) PLUS 5 years if ALL Citizenship values = "A", "H", "J", or "R" and ALL corresponding FAP Indicators do not = "X".

3. The current WMS and CBIC systems allow two case members to have ID cards activated for use in the upstate Electronic Benefit Issuance and Control System (EBICS). Edits on screen 5 of WMS require that at least one, and at most two persons on each PA and FS case have CBICs activated in EBICS. This process has been in place since AFSI implementation in 1985, and was continued when EBICS was implemented. The new statewide benefit issuance system (EBT) that will replace EBICS will require that an account be owned by a single recipient. This requirement is incompatible with the current process that permits two payees on a case. WMS edits have been modified to allow the selection of only one payee on a case. (Refer to the WMS Coordinator Letter of August 12, 1998 for detailed information regarding the payee conversion logic, as well as the draft letter to clients that will be generated by the conversion program.)
4. A new Payment Type Code "D6 - Merit Incentive Award" has been made available. Edits will limit its usage to Case Types 11 or 12 and will prohibit its usage with Method of Payment Type "01 - Unrestricted", since these payments are not to be provided in cash to recipients. An Issuance Code of "02 - Once Only" will be required since these payments should not be issued as recurring. Details concerning this new payment can be found in Administrative Directive 98 ADM-5.