NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The New Mexico Department of Health will hold a public hearing on the proposed adoption of rule 7.1.31 NMAC, "Statewide Health Care Claims Database." The public hearing will be held on January 6, 2021 at 9:30 am via Cisco Webex online via telephone, and comments will be received via email through the day of the hearing until 5:00 pm. The hearing will be held via internet, email, and telephonic means due to the concerns surrounding Coronavirus and in accord with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's Executive Order 2020-004, Declaration of a Public Health Emergency, and any subsequent executive orders, and the March 12, 2020 Public Health Emergency Order to Limit Mass Gatherings Due to COVID-19. This hearing will be conducted to receive public comment regarding the adoption of the proposed rule, 7.1.31 NMAC, concerning the creation and maintenance of a repository of healthcare claims data to be used to increase the quality and effectiveness of health care delivered in New Mexico. The adoption of the proposed rule will assist in making health care more transparent to the public, fulfilling the DOH's legislative obligations in 24-14A-3, NMSA 1978, as part of the overall "Health Information System," created for the purpose of assisting the department, legislature, and other agencies and organizations in the state's efforts in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating health information to assist in the performance of health planning and policymaking functions, including identifying personnel, facility education and other resource needs and allocating financial, personnel and other resources where appropriate; consumers in making informed decisions regarding health care; and preparing, monitoring, and evaluating a statewide health plan.

By adopting this rule the Department proposes to establish a statewide all-payer claims database (APCD) to support transparent public reporting of health care information. An APCD is a repository of healthcare claims data that connects data from multiple payers, including Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, dental insurance, children's health insurance, self-insured employer plans, and pharmacy plans. An APCD for New Mexico would provide the opportunity to aggregate health care data including outpatient visit, pharmacy, cost, and other data, for dissemination to the public, researchers, and others for the purposes of improving health care planning, quality, and consumer choice. The database should improve transparency to: assist patients, providers, and hospitals to make informed choices about care; enable providers, hospitals, and communities to improve by benchmarking their performance against that of others by focusing on best practices, enable purchasers to identify value, build expectations into their purchasing strategy, and reward improvements over time; and promote competition based on quality and cost. The database will systematically collect all medical claims for covered medical services, pharmacy claims, dental claims, member eligibility and enrollment data, and provider data with necessary identifiers from private and public payers, with data from all settings of care that treat the sick.