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| **Change Notification:**  advisory\_2022\_NHI Numbering Change\_v1.0  **Date of Issue:**  6 December 2021 | **http://www.peoplenet.co.nz/Images/Logos/MinistryOfHealth.jpg** |

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| **Proposed Implementation Date:**  01 July 2022 | **Subject:** Change to National Health Index (NHI) Numbering System |
| **CHANGE NOTIFICATION** | |
| Summary:  The National Health Index (NHI) has assigned the majority of the currently available NHI numbering range. At current rates of allocation, there are only sufficient available NHI numbers for another 3 to 4 years. All existing NHI numbers are forecast to be exhausted by 2025. | |
| **National Collections Impacted by Change:** | NHI, All Collections |
| Context of the Change:  As the NHI number system is fundamental to health systems generally, it is essential that all system providers and users be given as much time as possible to become aware of and familiar with, the new approach. System vendors will also need significant lead time to adjust their products to handle the change of format and the supporting calculation process for the check digit. | |
| **Details of Proposed Change:**  The existing approach provides a unique 7-character number in the format AAANNNC (3 alpha, 3 numeric and one numeric check digit). The new format is to take the form AAANNAC (3 alpha, 2 numeric, 1 alpha and one alpha check digit). This approach is detailed in the updated HISO standard. It details the change to the format of NHI numbers. The two formats will co-exist – ‘old’ format numbers will not be replaced.  <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/hiso-10046-consumer-health-identity-standard> | |
| **What is Expected of the Sector:**  New format NHI number (ZZZ00AX) has been available in the NHI pre-production compliance test environment since June 2020. System vendors can begin testing use of the new format NHIs. Additional new format test NHI numbers can be added on request by emailing [Integration@health.govt.nz](mailto:Integration@health.govt.nz). It is strongly recommended that all systems should be changed to accommodate the new format by 1 July 2023 to allow a comfortable lead time before the first numbers are issued in the new format. | |
| **Impact of Change on National Collection(s):**  All national collections will be analysed to determine the impact of the changes. New format NHI numbers are available in the pre-production compliance test environment. Therefore, system vendors can begin testing use of the new format NHIs. | |
| **Comments:**  This is an advisory only and further information will be provided via NCAMP 2023 and from the Health Identity team. Please note that the recommended date that systems should be changed to accommodate the new format has been put back one year due to the ongoing impacts of the response to COVID-19. | |
| **Contact:** If you have any questions regarding this change notice, please email [ncamp@health.govt.nz](mailto:ncamp@health.govt.nz) | |