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| **Advisory**Advisory\_2024\_NCAMP\_ Change to National Health Index (NHI) Numbering System**Date of Issue:** 05 December 2023 |
| **Proposed Implementation Date:** 01 July 2024 | **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. All existing NHI numbers are forecast to be exhausted in 2025 based on current rates of allocation. |
| **National Collections Impacted by Change:** | NHI – All Collections |
| **Context of the Change:** A new number format will be issued from 1 October 2025 to extend the range of NHI numbers available.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). The two formats are to co-exist – ‘old’ format numbers will not be replaced. The approach is detailed in the HISO 10046:2022 Consumer Health Identity Standard: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/hiso-10046-consumer-health-identity-standard>. Further information can be found at <https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/health-identity/national-health-index/nhi-format-changes/>.As the NHI number system is fundamental to health systems generally, it is essential that all system providers and users are aware of and familiar with the new approach. System vendors will need 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).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. All systems should be changed to accommodate the new format by 1 July 2024 to allow a comfortable lead time before the first numbers are issued in the new format. |
| **What is Expected of the Sector:** System vendors can begin testing use of the new format NHIs. Systems with NHI write access may create new format NHIs in the NHI User Acceptance Testing environment by specifying “NEWNHI” in the surname field when submitting an ‘add’ request.It is strongly recommended that all systems should be changed to accommodate the new format by 1 July 2024 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. |
| **Contact:** If you have any questions regarding this change notice, please email ncamp@health.govt.nz |