



Texas Department of Insurance

333 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 149104 Austin, Texas 78714-9104
512 403-6169

June 11, 1996

Commissioner's Bulletin No. B-0040-96

**TO: ALL INSURERS LICENSED TO DO ACCIDENT AND HEALTH
BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS**

RE: APPROPRIATE USE OF DEA REGISTRATION NUMBERS

The purpose of this bulletin is to recirculate and emphasize Commissioner's Bulletin issued December 28, 1992 (copy attached).

Any inappropriate use of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) provider numbers may be viewed as unfair claims settlement practices or result in violations of specific provider contracting laws. Please make any changes to your practices necessary to ensure your company's compliance immediately.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Tyrette Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner of the Life/Health Group at 512/322-3401.

Elton Bomer
Commissioner of Insurance

Attachment



Texas Department of Insurance

555 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 149104 Austin, Texas 78714-9104
512 463-6109

June 10, 1996

Mr. Fred S. Brinkley, Jr., R.Ph., M.B.A.
Vice Chairman - Health Professions Council
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 2-220
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

Dear Mr. Brinkley:

I would like to thank the Health Professions Council for its recent letter regarding the use of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) numbers as provider identifiers by insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers.

I appreciate the Council bringing this continuing problem to my attention. As you suggested, I have instructed my staff to reissue the Commissioner's Bulletin advising against inappropriate use of DEA numbers. Additionally, the Consumer Protection Division of the Texas Department of Insurance will continue to aggressively pursue complaints that involve misuse of DEA numbers.

If you have additional concerns or recommendations to help curb this practice, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elton Bomer".

Elton Bomer
Commissioner of Insurance

EB:TH:kg

xc: Members of the Health Professions Council (list attached)

Patte B. Kent - Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Gerrard Swain - Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
Douglas A. Beran, Ph.D. - Board of Dental Examiners
Allen M. Haymans - Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners
Bruce A. Levy, M.D - Board of Medical Examiners
Rebecca E. Forkner - Board of Examiners of Psychologists
Katherine A. Thomas - Board of Nurse Examiners
Ron L. Allen - Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Alicia D. Essary - Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
Majorie A. Bronk - Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners
Lois N. Ewald - Board of Optometry
Jim J. Zukowski - Texas Department of Health
Paul N. Wageman - Representative for the Governor's Office



Texas Department of Insurance

333 Guadalupe Street P.O. Box 149104 Austin, Texas 78714-9104
512/463-6169

August 1, 1996

Douglas A. Beran, Ph.D.
Executive Director
State Board of Dental Examiners
333 Guadalupe, Tower 3, Suite 800
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

Dear Dr. Beran:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding efforts to stop the improper use of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) numbers as provider identifiers.

Commissioner Bomer and I appreciate the efforts of both the State Board of Dental Examiners and the Health Professionals Council to stop the inappropriate use of DEA numbers by insurance companies and pharmacy benefit providers. By using tools such as the Newsletter to provide information on how to file a complaint about misuse, the SBDE will be of great assistance to TDI in the pursuit of those entities that have not voluntarily complied with the Commissioner's Bulletin.

Your continued support in this effort is greatly appreciated. Please contact me if I may be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tyrètte Hamilton".

Tyrètte Hamilton
Deputy Commissioner
Life/Health Group MC 106-1A

TH:rhm



Texas Department of Insurance

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COMMISSIONER'S BULLETIN

December 28, 1992

APPROPRIATE USE OF DEA REGISTRATION NUMBERS

TO: ALL HEALTH INSURERS:

The Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice has asked this agency to disseminate the following information concerning the appropriate use of DEA registration numbers.

The Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice developed the use of DEA registration numbers in order to provide a record of authorized possession and responsibility for substances which could not be sold without a prescription under the federal act governing controlled substances. The DEA has had numerous requests for DEA numbers because insurers are requiring those numbers for the purpose of reimbursement under insurance plans. The DEA does not endorse this use and does not have the available manpower to comply with all requests for these numbers.

The DEA has asked this agency to disseminate the above information and to advise insurers that DEA registrants are not required by the DEA to provide their DEA numbers to insurance companies for the purpose of reimbursement under insurance plans.

Questions concerning this bulletin should be directed to Rhonda C. Myron, Deputy Commissioner, Life/Health Group at 512/322-3400.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georgia D. Flint".

Georgia D. Flint
Commissioner of Insurance