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Department of Health Services Children's Medical Services Network (CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #381

Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) Password Requirements

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is enhancing MEDS password requirements to comply with federal standards. These updated password controls go into effect on **January 19, 2012**.

No action is required by MEDS users until MEDS prompts users to change his/her password after January 19, 2012. We anticipate that this phased-implementation approach will take 90 days to complete, therefore all users will be in compliance with these standards by April 19, 2012.

New MEDS Password Standards:

1. Passwords will be exactly 8 characters in length
2. Passwords are case sensitive and must contain:
 - a. At least one alphabetic uppercase letter (A-Z) or one national character (#, @ and \$) and;
 - b. At least one alphabetic lowercase letter (a-z) and;
 - c. At least one number (0-9)
3. User ID access will be revoked after three consecutive unsuccessful log-in attempts (using the wrong password)
4. Inactive User IDs will automatically be revoked after 90 days, requiring passwords to be reset by DHCS/ITSD Service Desk
5. Users must change their passwords at least every 90 days
6. Passwords may not be changed more frequently than once every 15 days
7. Users are prohibited from using any of their prior 32 passwords
8. 10 days before the password expires, users will begin receiving a message prompting them to change their password upon login attempt

Please contact the CMS Net Help Desk at cmshelp@dhcs.ca.gov or (866) 685-8449 if you have questions.