

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**Center for Employment and Economic Supports**

**December 15, 2009**

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**TO:** Commissioners, TA Directors, FS Directors, WMS Coordinators, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators

**FROM:** Russell Sykes, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** Randomization of CBIC Numbering

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 14, 2009

**CONTACT PERSONS:** CEES EBT Bureau @1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-9696,  
CBIC Project Office, Saul Berkowitz: 518-486-7554, or  
Steve Doppel: 518-486-7047

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform local social services district staff that the Sequence Number that appears on New York State Common Benefit Identification (CBIC) cards will be randomly assigned effective with new or replacement cards requested on or after December 12, 2009. Mailed replacement cards produced after December 12, 2009 will also have randomly assigned numbers. Introduction of this card numbering change will occur gradually over time and there will not be a mass mailing of new cards to the current population. The rules followed for the Personal Identification Number (PIN) will not be affected.

Randomization of the Sequence Number is being implemented to reduce fraudulent use of recipient identification cards across the Temporary Assistance, Food Stamp and Medicaid program areas.

In April 2009, and in conjunction with this change, the top portion of the CBIC was re-designed to include an issuance date and time stamp to help identify the most recent card issued. This information was provided to assist cardholders and service providers when handling multiple cards. The recipients' most recently issued card is the only active card. When needed, use of the CBIC inquiry screens via WMS will also inform workers of the most recently issued cards.

Other than these two changes the CBIC will continue to appear and function in the same manner. The impact to food stamp merchants and other services providers will be minimal. The Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system will not be affected by this change and cardholders will continue using their cards to call the EBT Helpline for any related services.

Please direct any questions as noted above in the CONTACT PERSONS section.