

**Disclosure of National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) by Health Care Industry Entities  
to  
Other Health Care Industry Entities**

We are aware that some entities within the health care industry, such as health plans and some large provider organizations, would like to disclose health care providers' National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) to other health care industry entities for purposes of using NPIs in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standard transactions.

On May 30, 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), published a Notice in the Federal Register that described HHS' policy for publicly disclosing health care providers' NPIs. This Notice, called the CMS Data Dissemination Notice, can be obtained directly from our web site, at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/DataDisseminationNPI.pdf>. In accordance with that Notice, effective September 4, 2007, HHS made the NPIs of health care providers publicly available through the NPI Registry (found at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>). Full downloadable files were made available on September 12, 2007, at [http://nppesdata.cms.hhs.gov/cms\\_NPI\\_files.html](http://nppesdata.cms.hhs.gov/cms_NPI_files.html)). Because NPIs are now publicly available, health care entities may make disclosures as described above.

Health care providers are always encouraged to share their NPIs with trading partners and other health care providers who may need those NPIs for HIPAA transaction purposes, and health plans may disclose health care providers' NPIs in directories and other such listings so that they can be used appropriately in HIPAA transactions.