



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5674

Date Posted: October 30, 2007

Related CR #: 5674

How to Handle the National Provider Identifier (NPI) for Ordering/Referring and Attending/Operating/Other/Service Facility for Medicare Claims

Key Words

MM5674, CR5674, R225PI, Payment, NPI, Ordering, Referring, Attending, Operating

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers who bill Medicare Carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), and Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for claims for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is May 23, 2008.
- The implementation date is April 7, 2008.
- The Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandate the adoption of a standard unique health identifier for each health care provider.
- The NPI final rule, published on January 23, 2004, establishes the NPI as this standard.
- All health care providers covered under HIPAA must comply with the requirements of the NPI final rule (45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 162, CMS-045-F). All entities covered under HIPAA must comply with the requirements of the NPI final rule.
- Medicare will not pay for referred/ordered services or items unless the name and NPI number of the referring/ordering/attending/operating/other/service facility provider is on the claim.
- It is the responsibility of the claim/bill submitter to obtain the referring/ordering/attending/operating/other/service facility NPI for health care providers.
- Providers whose business is largely based upon provision of services or items referred/ordered by other providers must be careful furnishing such services/items unless they first obtain the NPI of the referring/ordering individual.

- If they furnish services/items and do not obtain that person's NPI prior to billing Medicare, their claim **will be denied**.
- If the NPI is not directly furnished by the ordering/referring provider at the time of the order, the provider that is expected to furnish the services or items should contact that provider for his/her NPI prior to delivery of the services/items.
- Providers who have not obtained an NPI by May 23, 2008, are not permitted to refer/order services or items for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Legacy numbers, such as provider identification numbers or unique physician identification numbers, cannot be reported on any claims sent to Medicare on or after May 23, 2008.
- Physicians and the following non-physician practitioners are the only types of providers allowed to refer/order services or items for beneficiaries:
 - Nurse practitioners;
 - Clinical nurse specialists;
 - Physician assistants; and
 - Certified nurse midwives.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5674.pdf> on the CMS website.

Providers may see the official instruction (CR5674) issued to their Medicare A/B MAC, FI, or carrier by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R225PI.pdf> on the CMS website.

If providers have questions, they may contact their Medicare A/B MAC, FI, or carrier at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.