



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5564

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### *Clarification of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Reporting Requirements for Ambulance Service Claims*

#### Key Words

MM5564, CR5564, R1251CP, NPI, Ambulance

#### Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers who bill Medicare carriers and Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for ambulance services

#### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is July 1, 2007.
- The implementation date is July 2, 2007.

**Important Note:** Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) has instituted a contingency plan for NPI implementation that delays the requirement for the NPI beyond May 23, 2007. For details regarding this delay, please see MLN Matters article MM5595 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5595.pdf> on the CMS website.

- Section 1833(q) of the Social Security Act requires that the ordering/referring physician's name be provided on all claims for Medicare covered services and items resulting from a physician's order or referral.
- When the NPI reporting requirements go into effect, according to the Medicare fee-for-service NPI contingency plan, the ordering/referring physician's NPI will also be required on these claims.
- However, claims for ambulance services are excluded from this requirement (as explained in the paragraphs below).
- 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. In response to this mandate, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the NPI final rule (published on January 23, 2004) established the NPI as this standard.

- Although providers/suppliers may begin reporting the NPI as early as January 1, 2007, all health care providers covered under HIPAA must comply with the requirements of the NPI final rule in accordance with Medicare's NPI contingency plan.
- At the appropriate date, Medicare will reject claims in which the appropriate name and NPI are not entered in the required fields of the Form CMS-1500 paper claim format, Version 08-05 (fields 17 and 17B, respectively) and the ANSI X12 837-P electronic claim format, Version 4010A (NM1 segment of the 2310A and/or 2420E loop, respectively).
- Ambulance services (particularly transports provided in response to a 911 or 911 equivalent emergency call) are often ordered by someone other than a physician. In these situations, the name and the NPI of the ordering/referring physician are not available. Therefore, CMS does not feel that it is appropriate to require that this information be submitted on the claim form.
- Change Request (CR) 5564 instructs carriers and the MACs that the ordering/referring physician's NPI is not required on claims for ambulance services.

### Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5564.pdf> on the CMS website

The official instruction (CR5564) issued regarding this change may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1251CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Providers and suppliers with any questions may contact their carrier or MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.