



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-07-16

DATE: March 2, 2007

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Clarification of Provider Number Nomenclature

Letter Summary

- Following the implementation of the National Provider Identifier (NPI), the Medicare/Medicaid Provider Number will continue to be issued to certified providers/suppliers and used on all Survey and Certification, and patient assessment transactions.
- In order to distinguish its role from that of the NPI, the Medicare/Medicaid Provider Number has been renamed the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Certification Number (CCN).

By law, the NPI will become the only acceptable provider identifier on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Standard Transactions (i.e., claims, remittance advice, eligibility inquiries, prior authorization and referral, and claims status).

However, post NPI implementation, the Medicare/Medicaid Provider Number will continue to be issued to certified providers/suppliers and used to verify Medicare/Medicaid certification on all survey and certification and resident/patient assessment transactions. In order to avoid confusion with the NPI, the Medicare/Medicaid Provider Number has been renamed the CCN. All applicable forms, data entry fields, systems, and manuals are being revised to reflect this new name and the role of the CCN versus the NPI. In some activities, both numbers will be used.

Effective immediately, 'CCN' will replace the term 'Medicare/Medicaid Provider Number' in survey and certification, assessment-related activities, and communications. This terminology change should be explained in those instances. When the NPI is called for on any form or transaction, it should be provided, if available. When the Medicare/Medicaid Provider Number (also known as the Online Survey, Certification, and Reporting (OSCAR) Number; Medicare Identification Number; or provider number) is requested, the CCN should be provided.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Number which will continue to be used as it has been.

Effective Date: This guidance is effective immediately. The State Agency should disseminate this information within 30 days of the date of this memorandum.

Training: The information contained in this announcement should be shared with all surveyors, survey and certification staff, their managers, and State and RO training coordinators. It should also be shared with certified providers/suppliers.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)