



## Common Working File (CWF) to Modify CWF Provider Queries to Only Accept National Provider Identifier (NPI) as Valid Provider Number

MLN Matters Number: MM10098 **Revised**      Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR10098

Related CR Release Date: November 9, 2017      Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R1976OTN      Implementation Date: January 2, 2018

**Note: This article was revised on November 13, 2017, to reflect a revised CR10098 issued on November 9. In the article, the CR release date, transmittal number, and Web address of CR are revised. All other information remains the same.**

### PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

---

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers querying Medicare's Common Working File (CWF) for checking eligibility and entitlement status for Medicare beneficiaries.

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

---

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 10098, which informs the MACs about modifications to the CWF Provider Queries, ELGA, ELGH, HIQA, HIQH, and HUQA, to only accept the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as a valid Provider Number. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

### BACKGROUND

---

Providers, clearinghouses, and/or third-party vendors, herein referred to as "Trading Partners," verify an individual's Medicare eligibility and entitlement status prior to and/or while the individual is receiving services before billing Medicare for services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries using HIPAA Eligibility Transaction System (HETS) and/or CWF.

Within CWF, Trading Partners use CWF Provider Queries, ELGA, ELGH, HIQA, HIQH, and HUQA. Currently, Trading Partners are allowed to use either legacy Provider Numbers (CMS Certification Number (CCN) or Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN)) or NPI on CWF Provider Queries.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring CWF to modify CWF Provider

Queries to only accept NPI as a valid Provider Number.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10098, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R1976OTN.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 13, 2017	Article revised to reflect a revised CR. In the article, the CR release date, transmittal number, and Web address of CR are revised. All other information remains the same.
July 28, 2017	Initial article released.

**Disclaimer** This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2016 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2017, the American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois. Reproduced with permission. No portion of the AHA copyrighted materials contained within this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the AHA. AHA copyrighted materials including the UB-04 codes and descriptions may not be removed, copied, or utilized within any software, product, service, solution or derivative work without the written consent of the AHA. If an entity wishes to utilize any AHA materials, please contact the AHA at 312-893-6816. Making copies or utilizing the content of the UB-04 Manual, including the codes and/or descriptions, for internal purposes, resale and/or to be used in any product or publication; creating any modified or derivative work of the UB-04 Manual and/or codes and descriptions; and/or making any commercial use of UB-04 Manual or any portion thereof, including the codes and/or descriptions, is only authorized with an express license from the American Hospital Association. To license the electronic data file of UB-04 Data Specifications, contact Tim Carlson at (312) 893-6816 or Laryssa Marshall at (312) 893-6814. You may also contact us at [ub04@healthforum.com](mailto:ub04@healthforum.com).

The American Hospital Association (the "AHA") has not reviewed, and is not responsible for, the completeness or accuracy of any information contained in this material, nor was the AHA or any of its affiliates, involved in the preparation of this material, or the analysis of information provided in the material. The views and/or positions presented in the material do not necessarily represent the views of the AHA. CMS and its products and services are not endorsed by the AHA or any of its affiliates.