



Modernized National Plan and Provider Enumeration System

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PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for all health care providers -- users of the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) to obtain, or update a National Provider Identifier (NPI) and to maintain their NPI account. This includes all physicians, providers and suppliers—it is not limited or restricted to Medicare.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has modernized the NPPES (NPPES 3.0) that now has unified login for type 1 and type 2 providers which increases security, provides new surrogacy functionality, has a more responsive User Interface (UI) and a streamlined NPI application process. All NPPES users who obtain and manage NPI account information should be aware of these new and improved features/processes, especially those who support Type 2 providers. NPPES has implemented a more efficient way of accessing type 2 NPI accounts so providers no longer need separate credentials for type 2 accounts and are no longer inclined to share these credentials.

BACKGROUND

The NPI is the standard for a unique identifier for health care providers for use in the health care system. NPPES is the application that health care providers must use to be awarded an NPI number. Within the NPPES, there are two types of providers:

- Type 1 Providers – Health care providers who are individuals, including physicians, dentists, and all sole proprietors (An individual is eligible for only one NPI.)
- Type 2 providers – Health care providers who are organizations, including physician groups, hospitals, nursing homes, and the corporation formed when an individual incorporates him/herself.

For more information on the National Provider Number please visit <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Administrative-Simplification/NationalProvIdentStand/downloads/NPIfinalrule.pdf>.

New NPES Impact on Type 1 Providers

Type 1 providers who already have an account in the Identity & Access (I&A) Management System may login to NPES without incident. Type 1 providers who do not have an I&A account will need to create an account by visiting <https://npes.cms.hhs.gov/IAWeb/login.do>.

Under the modernized NPES, surrogates of Type 1 providers will have access to their Type 1 provider's NPI records.

For more information on the Identity & Access Management System please visit https://npes.cms.hhs.gov/IAWebContent/Quick_Reference_Guide.pdf.

New NPES Impact on Type 2 Providers

In the past, the sharing of login credentials between Type 2 providers and surrogates posed great security risks including fraud and provider identity theft. The new unified login and surrogacy helps lessen these risks and increase account security. Type 2 provider users will need I&A authentication credentials to access the modernized NPES. Users may obtain these in the I&A system by going to <https://npes.cms.hhs.gov/IAWeb/login.do>. The Authorized Officials (AO) and Delegated Officials (DO) in I&A of Type 2 providers will be able to access all NPIs under the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on the type 2 provider with an organization EIN. Users can claim NPIs using their legacy Type 2 usernames and passwords after they login with an I&A account. As an additional convenience, large organizations can contact the enumerator to get access to their NPIs. More information on the types of possible user roles is available at https://npes.cms.hhs.gov/IAWebContent/Quick_Reference_Guide.pdf.

Key Features of the Modernized NPES

Some of the key features of the modernized and more responsive UI include:

- If users have an I&A user ID and password, they now can use those credentials to login to NPES and they can access all NPIs from one unified account.
- Users can save applications that are not fully complete and may continue where they left off when they return to the NPES.
- NPES will have smart filters that only display entries containing the data entered by users to filter away unnecessary information.
- Users may add more than one practice location to their NPI application.
- All taxonomy information may be completed on one page due to the smart filter technology of NPES 3.0.
- Surrogacy allows administrative users the ability to update records in NPES on behalf of a provider.
- NPES 3.0 provides a help option to give assistance to the user based on the screen on which they are working.

- Increased security because NPPES now uses surrogacy functionality for Type 2 NPIs to prevent sharing of Type 2 login credentials.

Electronic File Interchange (EFI) Features

NPPES 3.0 will continue to allow providers and surrogates to submit multiple NPI applications at one time using Comma Separated Values (CSV) files. To use the EFI feature, the users will need to apply for EFI access. This can be done by logging into NPPES and clicking the 'Manage EFI' button on the bottom of the NPPES homepage. The EFI access application is pre-populated with some of the user's information pre-filled when it is generated. For more information on EFI functionality please visit <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/webhelp/nppeshelp/EFI%20HELP%20PAGE.html>.

Data Dissemination File (DDS) Enhancements

NPPES will generate weekly and monthly Org Other Name, Practice Location Addresses, and Endpoint Information Files. The weekly files will have updates of the information that changes from week to week, while the monthly files will generate regardless of updated information. DDS files with PII will continue to be delivered to stakeholders, while DDS files without PII will continue to be delivered to http://download.cms.gov/nppes/NPI_Files.html.

New Optional Fields in NPPES 3.0

The following new fields will allow the user to give more information about the provider and the practice location:

- Primary languages
- Secondary languages
- Race and ethnicity
- Accessibility of the location to users with mobility disabilities
- Provider's office hours of operation
- Provider's direct email address

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Feel free to visit the NPPES web help guide to see solutions to frequently asked questions. That guide is available at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/webhelp/nppeshelp/NPPES%20FAQS.html>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information on NPPES is available at the following links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOJCAj1P2u8&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/webhelp/nppeshelp/NPPES%20FAQS.html#How-can-I-gain-access-to-my-Type-2-NPI>

- <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/webhelp/nppeshelp/NPPES%20FAQS.html#Why-cant-I-use-my-Type-2-NPI-User-ID-and-Password-to-log-into-NPPES-to-access-my-NPI>
- <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/IAWeb/warning.do?fwdurl=/>

If you have any questions, please contact the NPI enumerator by phone at 1-800-465-3203 (NPI Toll-Free) or 1-800-692-2326 (NPI TTY), by email at customerservice@npienumerator.com or by regular mail at:

NPI Enumerator
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DOCUMENT HISTORY

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