

Released 9/28/2006

NPI: Get It. Share It. Use It.

As noted in previous announcements by the agency and our contractors, CMS plans to begin testing the new software that has been developed to use the National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the existing Medicare fee-for-service claims processing systems. Providers have until May 23, 2007, before you are required to submit claims with only an NPI.

Until testing is complete within the Medicare processing systems, CMS urges providers to continue submitting Medicare fee-for-service claims in one of two ways:

- Use your legacy number, such as your Provider Identification Number (PIN), NSC number, OSCAR number or UPIN; or
- Use both your NPI and your legacy number.

Until testing of the new software that uses the NPI in the Medicare systems is complete and until further notice from CMS, the following may occur if you submit Medicare claims with only an NPI:

- Claims may be processed and paid, or
- Claims for which Medicare systems are unable to properly match the incoming NPI with a legacy number (e.g., PIN, OSCAR number) may be rejected to the provider, and then you will need to resubmit the claim with the appropriate legacy number.

As always, more information and education on the NPI can be found at the CMS NPI page www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand on the CMS website. Providers can apply for an NPI online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or can call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at 1-800-465-3203.

Getting an NPI is free - not having one can be costly.

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Encore Presentation of the 9/26 NPI Roundtable Now Available

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) Roundtable that occurred on September 26th drew a record-breaking number of participants -the likes of which CMS had not previously seen during the HIPAA Roundtable series. As a result, this overwhelming response exceeded logistical expectations and therefore many callers were unable to join the call. An encore presentation is now available for access at your convenience, 24 hours/day, until midnight on Wednesday, October 4th (including the weekend). Interested participants can access the encore with the following information:

Encore Dial In #: (800) 642-1687

Conference ID #: 4795739

A transcript of this call will also be available shortly at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/ on the CMS website.

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NPI – Will You Be Ready?

GET IT.

The compliance date, May 23, 2007, is only **8 months** away. It's every provider's responsibility to make sure that an NPI is obtained if the provider is required to do so. If you're not sure, it's time to investigate. Get your NPI now so you have time to prepare **before** the compliance date. This includes sharing your NPI and appropriately testing it with payers to avoid a disruption in cash flow. To learn more on how to apply visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/ on the CMS website.

SHARE IT.

Have your NPI and don't know what to do with it? Share it. Share it with health plans you bill and the colleagues who rely on having your NPI to submit their claims (e.g. those who bill for ordered or referred services). You should also share it with your billing service, vendor, or clearinghouse, if you have any of them as business associates. Find out when and how the health plans with which you do business will begin accepting the NPI in claims and other standard transactions.

USE IT.

Once your health plans have informed you that they are ready to accept NPIs, begin the testing process. It is important to test **before** May 23, 2007 to avoid a disruption in your cash flow. Consider sending only a few claims at first as you test the ability of plans to accept the NPI. Fewer claims will make it easier to keep track of status and payment, as well as troubleshooting any potential problems that may arise during the testing process.

CMS NPI Roundtable – September 26, 2006

- CMS will host a national NPI Roundtable, open to all health care professionals, on Tuesday, September 26th from 2:00-3:30PM ET.
- To participate, you may call **1-877-203-0044**, **pass code 4795739**

Information on Covered Entities Under HIPAA

CMS has posted a new "Frequently Asked Question" to the CMS website that addresses whether a health care provider is a covered entity under HIPAA if they receive health information electronically (e.g. an electronic remittance advice), but do not transmit any health information electronically. The link is listed below or you can go to the CMS.gov website and click on "Questions" in the blue banner.

http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cms_hhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=7906&p_created=1158786931&p_sid=fY-kZcii&p_accessibility=0&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNvcnQ9MjoyJnBfcm93X2NudD0yNTQxJnBfcHJvZHM9JnBfY2F0cz0mcF9wdj0mcF9jdj0mcF9zZWfyY2hfdHlwZT1hbnN3ZXJzLnNIYXJjaF9ubCZwX3BhZ2U9MQ**&p_li=&p_topview=1

New NPI Information for Medicare Providers

Clarification of the Taxonomy Requirement Outlined in CR5243

Effective January 1, 2007, institutional Medicare providers who submit claims for their primary facility and its subparts (such as psychiatric unit, rehabilitation unit, etc.) must report a **taxonomy**

code on all claims submitted to their Fiscal Intermediary. CMS posted a FAQ that clarifies this requirement. The link is listed below or you can go to the CMS.gov website and click on "Questions" in the blue banner.

http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=7896&p_created=1158064263&p_sid=KiZr-wii&p_accessibility=0&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Jvd19jbnQ9MSZwX3Byb2RzPTAmcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3NIYXJjaF90eXBlPWFuc3dlnMuYV9pZCZwX3BhZ2U9MSZwX3NIYXJjaF90ZXh0PTc4OTY*&p_li=&p_topview=1

Reminder to Supply Legacy Identifiers on NPI Application

CMS continues to urge providers to include legacy identifiers on their NPI applications. This will help all health plans, including Medicare, to get ready for May 23, 2007. If reporting a Medicaid legacy number, include the associated State name. If providers have already been assigned NPIs, CMS asks them to consider going back into the NPES and updating their information with their legacy identifiers if they did not include those identifiers when they applied for NPIs. This information is critical for health plans and health care clearinghouses in the development of crosswalks to aid in the transition to the NPI.

New WEDI Early Adopters Series

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) has developed a series of monthly 90-minute audio casts that highlight the NPI related planning, management, communication and implementation activities. The first audio cast is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2006 from 2-3:30 PM ET. Visit the WEDI website for more information and to register for this audio cast at <http://www.wedi.org/npioi/index.shtml> on the web. Please note that there is a cost to register for this WEDI event.

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Scheduled National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) Downtime

The NPPES will be upgraded on Monday, September 18, 2006, and will not be available to users from 5:00 a.m. Eastern Time through 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on that day. The Data Center has told us that it is possible that some of this work might begin on Saturday, September 16, but that this work is not expected to interrupt the operation of the NPPES. However, if users experience problems with NPPES on Saturday or Sunday, September 16 or 17, the problems are likely due to the upgrade processes, and users should wait until Monday afternoon, after 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, to try again.

Change in Online Availability of NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114)

Beginning on September 20, 2006, the PDF version of the NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) will no longer be available for download on the CMS forms website, and there will not be a link to that form from the NPPES page (<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>).

Health care providers can [still, however](#), apply for National Provider Identifiers (NPI) in one of three ways.

- (1) For the most efficient application processing and the fastest receipt of NPIs, health care providers should consider using the web-based NPI application process. They can log onto the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) and apply on line at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.doc>; or
- (2) Health care providers can agree to have an Electronic File Interchange (EFI) organization (EFIO) submit application data on their behalf (i.e., through a bulk enumeration process) if an EFIO requests their permission to do so; or,
- (3) Health care providers may wish to obtain a copy of the paper NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) and mail the completed, signed application to the NPI Enumerator located in Fargo, ND, whereby staff at the NPI Enumerator will enter the application data into NPPES. The form will be available only upon request through the NPI Enumerator. Health care providers who wish to obtain a copy of this form must contact the NPI Enumerator in any of these ways:

Phone: 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326

E-mail: customerservice@npienumerator.com

Mail: NPI Enumerator
P.O. Box 6059
Fargo, ND 58108-6059

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- To participate, you may call **1-877-203-0044, pass code 4795739**

CMS will address common questions related to Medicare's guidance on Subparts. While CMS will only address questions from a Medicare perspective, this information may be helpful to all providers.

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NEW!! NPI Training Package

CMS has developed a Training package on NPI that will assist providers with self-education, as well as education of staff. This package is also useful to national and local medical societies for group presentations and training. The entire package will consist of five modules: General Information, Electronic File Interchange (EFI), Subparts, Data Dissemination and Medicare Implementation. Each Module consists of a PowerPoint presentation (with speaker's notes) and is designed to stand alone or can be combined with other Modules for a training session tailored to the particular audience. **Modules will be posted to the CMS NPI web page as completed.**

Modules currently available include:

- Module 1: General Information
- Module 2: Electronic File Interchange (EFI)
- Module 3: Subparts

To view these Modules, visit INSERT TRAINING PACKAGE URL on the CMS NPI web page.

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- To participate, you may call **1-877-203-0044, pass code 4795739**
- CMS will address common questions related to Medicare's guidance on Subparts. While CMS will only address questions from a Medicare perspective, this information may be helpful to all providers. **Medicare providers, who have questions, should select the appropriate email below and send in questions by Friday, September 8th. Questions received after this date will not be considered.**
 - Medicare providers who bill a Fiscal Intermediary should send questions to: NPIQuestionsfromFIBillers@cms.hhs.gov
 - Medicare providers who bill a Carrier should send questions to: NPIQuestionsfromCarrierBillers@cms.hhs.gov
 - Medicare providers who bill a Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier (DMERC) should send questions to: NPIQuestionsfromDMERCBillers@cms.hhs.gov

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