

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop N1-19-21
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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HIPAA Administrative Simplification Information Bulletin

October 28, 2019

Subject: Notice Regarding Publication of the Final Rule to Rescind the Adoption of the Standard Unique Health Plan Identifier and Other Entity Identifier: CMS-0054-F

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is issuing this Information Bulletin to inform our stakeholders of the October 28, 2019, Federal Register publication of the [Final Rule CMS-0054-F](#) pertaining to the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). This Final Rule modifies 45 CFR 162.103 and repeals 45 CFR 162.502-514 to rescind the adoption of the Health Plan Identifier (HPID) and Other Entity Identifier (OEID).

Background

HIPAA required that HHS adopt a national plan identifier, with the intent of improving the utility of HIPAA transactions and reducing burden and costs. Standards for a national HPID and an OEID were adopted through a final rule on September 5, 2012 ([77 FR 54664](#)). Following publication of the final rule, HHS received feedback from stakeholders and the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) regarding provider burden, implementation costs, and inefficiencies. On October 31, 2014, HHS announced an enforcement discretion, meaning covered entities would not be penalized for non-compliance with the HPID final rule.

On December 18, 2018, HHS published a proposed rule to rescind the HPID and OEID based on additional input from NCVHS and industry stakeholders. There was a 60-day public comment period for the NPRM, which closed on February 19, 2019. The proposed rule can be found [here](#). After receiving supporting comments in response to the provisions in the NPRM, the rule was adopted as proposed.

What this Final Rule Will Accomplish

This final rule eliminates the regulatory requirement for health plans to obtain and use an HPID and eliminates the voluntary acquisition and use of the OEID. The final rule also simplifies the process for deactivating the existing identifiers to minimize operational costs for covered entities. On or after the effective date of this final rule, any active HPID or OEID will be automatically deactivated in the Health Plan and Other Entity Enumeration System (HPOES). If your organization has an HPID or OEID, please take action now to save any necessary information from those records. This rule will become effective 60 days after its publication date.

Questions about the Final Rule and Deactivation of HPIDs and OEIDs

For inquiries about the HPOES Module, contact the helpdesk at 1-855-267-1515 or send an email to CMS_FEPS@cms.hhs.gov.

If you have questions about this Information Bulletin, or other topics related to the HPID policy, or other adopted standards or operating rules, please send them to administrativesimplification@cms.hhs.gov. For more information about Administrative Simplification requirements, visit the [CMS website](#). For the latest news about Administrative Simplification, [sign up for Email Updates](#).