

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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HIPAA Administrative Simplification Information Bulletin

December 20, 2018

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

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is issuing this Information Bulletin to inform our stakeholders of the December 19, 2018, Federal Register publication of the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) CMS-0054-P pertaining to the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). This NPRM proposes to modify 45 CFR 162.103 and repeal 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 health plan identifier (HPID) and other entity identifier (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.

What this Proposed Rule Would Do

This proposed rule would eliminate the regulatory requirement for health plans to obtain and use an HPID, as well as eliminate the voluntary acquisition and use of the OEID. The proposed rule would also simplify the process for terminating the existing identifiers to minimize operational costs for covered entities.

Public Comment on the Proposed Rule

The proposed rule can be found [here](#). There is a 60-day public comment period for this rule, which closes on February 19, 2019. We encourage our stakeholders to read this proposed rule and submit comments, as these will assist us in preparing the final rule. During the comment period, and until a final rule is published, the enforcement discretion remains in effect for all covered entities.

If you have questions about this Information Bulletin, or other topics related to the 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](#).