

# National Plan and Provider Enumeration System

ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION

# NPPES

One of CMS's responsibilities is to uphold administrative simplification standards set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a HIPPA administrative standard that identifies health care providers in administrative and financial transactions. NPIs are public and anyone can search for health care providers in the NPI Registry.

**The NPPES assigns NPIs and maintains the NPI Registry.**

**The NPPES system:**

- Validates individual providers' social security numbers (SSNs) against the SSN system maintained by the Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Processes the SSA Death Master File to identify records of deceased providers, which keeps the NPI Registry up to date and prevents payment of claims to providers who are using invalid or inactive NPIs
- Validates and standardizes providers' addresses against the US Postal Service database using the Group-1 Universal Coder Application to ensure addresses are accurate in the NPI Registry
- certain data elements are updated via PECOS such as billing address by receiving information via web services from the Provider Chain and Ownership System (PECOS)
- Sends notifications to healthcare providers in both email and letter formats informing them about their NPI information
- Allows users to generate reports by running queries through an NPPES replication database
- Generates monthly files that users can download

CMS discloses NPPES health care provider data under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This data is published in the NPI Registry and on the NPI files available by download. Learn more on the NPI Data Dissemination webpage.