

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop D0-01-10
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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HIPAA Administrative Simplification Information Bulletin

March 4, 2024

Subject: Federal Register Notice on Requirements for National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) Data Changes CMS-0059-N.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is issuing this Information Bulletin to inform our stakeholders of the [Federal Register notice](#) that was displayed on March 1, 2024. The notice provides information on changes to data elements that health care providers are required to submit to the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) to obtain and maintain a National Provider Identifier (NPI). The changes to required data elements affect the data that is made available to the public from NPPES in downloadable files and in a query-only database on the Internet.

Background

On January 23, 2004, HHS published a final rule ([69 FR 3434](#)) that adopted the NPI as the standard unique health identifier for health care providers (hereinafter referred to as the NPI final rule). The NPI final rule established that HIPAA-covered entities must use NPIs to identify health care providers in electronic transactions for which the Secretary has adopted a standard. Covered entities include health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers who transmit any health information in electronic form in connection with a transaction for which the Secretary has adopted a standard.

The NPI final rule identified that NPIs are assigned to providers through the National Provider System (NPS). The preamble to the NPI final rule includes an "NPS Data Elements Table" (69 FR 3455) that lists the data elements expected to be collected about a health care provider and included in the NPS.

The NPS is now contained within the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). NPPES uniquely identifies health care providers through an application process and assigns NPIs. The NPPES creates a record for each health care provider to whom it assigns an NPI. The records are updated when health care providers furnish updates to the NPPES.

What This Notice Does

This notice announces changes to data elements that health care providers must submit to the NPPES to obtain and maintain an NPI. The changes to the required data elements affect the data that is available to the public from NPPES in downloadable files and in a query only database on the Internet.

These changes amend the description of the provider first line location address and second line location address data elements to permit a provider that does not have a physical location other than their home address to enter a post office box or personal mailbox offered by a private delivery service as their provider location address. This notice also announces that the NPPES system will include additional choices for provider gender

codes, permitting selection and dissemination of gender code options beyond M and F to promote improved accuracy in publicly available data and support the unique identification and enumeration of health care providers. NPPES will provide additional guidance on the new codes, including instructions for selecting gender codes to providers applying for an NPI and maintaining NPI data.

The notice can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

NPPES will be updated to begin collecting and disseminating these new values 30 days after publication of the notice in the Federal Register.

Additional Information: 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.

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