

National Provider Identifier: *An Overview*

National Provider Identifier ~ NPI

Why: HIPAA Compliance:

Required in all applicable HIPAA transactions claims payment/remittance, coordination of benefits, eligibility inquiry/responses, claim status inquiry, referrals, and enrollment

Who: Who needs an NPI?

- Both individual and organizational providers
- Any health care provider who bills for services
- NPIs have been available since May 2005
- NPI Enumerator website:
 - <http://hppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES>

When: Deadline ~ May 23, 2007 for compliance

All stakeholders should begin testing as soon as possible

Testing period estimated @ at least 120 days

- CMS recommends providers to begin testing and using their NPIs in electronic transactions no later than 1/31/07



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Impact ~ Provider:

- Providers own their NPI & must share their NPI
- Having **NO NPI** will cause payment disruption
- Impacted areas include business functions and processes including billing, payment, and reporting, as well as cash flow
- It appears that providers are getting their NPIs, but not all are actively trying to utilize them in billing transactions
- It is the responsibility of providers to learn about the NPI and the need for potential subparts



Impact ~ Software Vendors, Clearing Houses, Healthcare Plans:

- All software systems and processes must accommodate the NPI as the sole provider number for billing and payment purposes
- Providers should be communicating their NPIs to health plans, clearing houses and other providers (referrals)
- Many plans are using 'dual identifier' strategy to test processing and building crosswalks to accommodate acceptance of NPIs

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NPI Testing

Providers should actively facilitate testing with **ALL** of their health plans and payers as well as with their billing software vendors

Testing Success with the NPI is achieved when:

 The correct amount is paid **AND** the correct provider is paid for a claim transaction!

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What Providers Can Do:

- Get your NPI if you have not done so already
- Work with your billing software vendors to test and begin transmission of your NPIs
- Share your NPI and your enumeration strategy to your health plans as well as to your referral provider base

What Software Vendors, Clearing Houses, Healthcare Plans Can Do:

- Work with your customer base (providers) to begin testing and using NPIs with software systems

Resources:

- **CMS NPI Resource:** <http://www.cms.hhs.gov.NationalProvidentStand>: Contains final rule, FAQs, fact sheets, tips, etc
- **NPI Enumerator website:** <http://hppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/>
Location to enter NPI application
- CMS and others have been in collaboration over 2 years working to reach compliance by May 23, 2007