

NPI 101: Information Sheet

NPI: General Information

- **WHAT:** The National Provider Identifier is a 10 digit number assigned by CMS to all covered providers of healthcare who transmit information electronically (HIPAA transactions)
- **WHY:** The NPI is intended to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system by reducing the number of identifiers associated with providers and facilities (i.e. UPIN, BCBS, Medicaid, other payer specific numbers)
- **WHO:** Any healthcare provider who transmits health information electronically is required to have an NPI. There are two types of providers that will receive an NPI:
 - Individual: Physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, chiropractors (Individuals are assigned one NPI)
 - Organizations: Hospitals, clinics, labs (May have multiple NPIs for each subpart – urgent care, lab, pharmacy, etc)
- **WHEN:** Providers can apply for an NPI now. As of May 23, 2007, all HIPAA transactions must use an NPI as the sole means to identify a provider of services – except small plans with less than \$5M in premium revenues, which is May 23, 2008. The NPI lasts indefinitely and does not change regardless of job or location changes.

NOTE: Review laws in your state to determine any conflicts or supplements to the NPI. For example, some states require the NPI to be used on paper claims.

NPI: Applying for a number

- NPIs will be assigned by the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) used by CMS. NPPES validates application data to ensure accuracy and authorization
- Coordination of the application should occur with your employer or business office
- Ways to apply for an NPI number;
 - Call (800) 465-3203 or (800) 692-2326 (TTY) for a paper application
 - Email customerservice@npientumerator.com to obtain a paper application
 - Write to NPI Enumerator, P.O. Box 6059, Fargo, N.D. 58108-6059
 - Apply through the web address <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>

NPI: It is NOT . . .

- A replacement of a Tax Identification Number (TIN). But it does replace UPIN, BCBS and other payer specific numbers
- A replacement of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number or state license
- Required on paper transactions (although the new UB-04 and CMS-1500 forms will accommodate an NPI) or other non-HIPAA electronic transactions
- An elimination of the need to be separately credentialed with each health plan (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross Plans, etc.)
- An enrollment as a provider in a health plan
- A guarantee to receive reimbursement from health plans
- Requiring providers to transmit electronically

NPI: More Help

- More information can be found at <http://new.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand>