

# National Provider Identifier – Tips

## **What is the NPI?**

- NPI stands for National Provider Identifier is a 10 digit number that has been created to be a single national identifier for a physician.
- NPI is part of the “administrative simplification” provision of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- The NPI will replace all current health care provider identifiers including:
  - Insurance Companies Provider IDs
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-Legacy, UPIN, OSCAR, etc
- A physician will only have one individual NPI.

## **Who can apply for the NPI?**

- All health care providers that render care are eligible for the NPI.
- All health care providers who are HIPAA-covered entities must obtain an NPI to identify themselves in HIPAA standard transactions.
- HIPAA-covered health care providers are ones who transmit any health information in electronic form.

## **Why do we need the National Provider Identifier?**

- It will be your one unique identifier to simplify transmission of HIPAA transactions.
- NPIs will be used to identify health care providers in the following standard transactions: claims, eligibility inquiries and responses, claim status inquiries and responses, referrals and remittance advices.

## **What is the difference between Type 1 and Type 2?**

- **Type 1** - Health care providers who are individuals, including physicians, dentists, and all sole proprietors. An individual is eligible for only one NPI.
  - HealthReach recommends all Physicians obtain their individual NPI.
- **Type 2** - Health care providers who are organizations, including physician groups, hospitals, nursing homes, and the corporation formed when an individual incorporates him/herself. If you are an individual who is a health care provider and who is incorporated, you may need to obtain a NPI for yourself (Type 1) and an NPI for your corporation or LLC (Type 2).

## **How do I apply for my NPI?**

- What will you need?
  - Current Medicare Legacy provider number, UPIN, License number, practice and mailing address, County/State of Birth, DOB, Social Security or Tax ID and Taxonomy Code.
  - What is a Taxonomy Code?
    - Taxonomy Codes, also known as Specialty Codes, identify a provider’s specialty category. A single provider may have more than one Taxonomy Code depending on the specialties in which he or she practices. The Taxonomy Code should be accessible when you apply for your NPI online.
- You can apply in three ways:
  1. Apply on-line: [www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES](http://www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES)

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2. Written Application: available at [www.ohiohealthgroup.com/Products/CredentialingServices/NPI\\_APP](http://www.ohiohealthgroup.com/Products/CredentialingServices/NPI_APP) or call the NPI Enumerator at (800) 465-3203 or TTY (800) 692-2326.
  - a. Mail to: NPI Enumerator  
P.O. Box 6059  
Fargo, ND 58108-6059
3. Bulk enumeration or Electronic File Interchange – Not available through the OHG.

### **NPI Claim Time Lines**

- January 2, 2007 – March 31, 2007 Medicare will accept the CMS-1500 (12/90) or the revised CMS-1500 (8/05) form. NPIs can be submitted on the revised CMS 1500 (8/05), but not yet required.
- April 1, 2007 – May 22, 2007 – Medicare will reject CMS-1500 (12/90) form received with or without NPI. Only revised CMS-1500 (8/05) form will be accepted. NPI is not yet required, but should be entered if provider has obtained.
- May 23, 2007 and thereafter - Revised CMS-1500 (8/05) form received without a NPI to identify each provider for which data is reported on a claim, such as rendering, referring, or ordering physician, in addition to the billing provider, will be rejected by Medicare.

### **Should I share my NPI with anyone?**

- Yes! The NPI will replace your Medicare legacy and UPIN numbers along with all commercial third party payers. These NPIs will need to be shared with your business partners in the same manner, as they will be needed for referrals, claims submission, etc.

### **What if I do not submit claims electronically?**

- CMS and Third Party Payers are strongly encouraging that all physicians obtain and submit claims using an NPI regardless of submission type. The new CMS-1500 (8-05) form has fields designated for the NPI.

### **How is OHG helping me transition to our NPI?**

- Providing you information and tips relating to NPI via mail, fax and our website.
- Collecting and communicating NPIs to all OHG third party payers on your behalf.

### **What if you need more help?**

- Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/>
- National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)
  - Contact for help obtaining NPI
    - Phone - 1-800-465-3203 (NPI Toll-Free)
    - Email - [customerservice@npienumerator.com](mailto:customerservice@npienumerator.com)
    - Mail - NPI Enumerator, PO Box 6059, Fargo, ND 58108-6059
- Call OHG at (800) 635-7207
  - Amy Harrington, Practitioner Representative
  - Kathy Hill, Provider Representative